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**REPORT TO THE PEOPLE
RUTHERFORD COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA
1976-1977**

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RUTHERFORD COUNTY REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

PREPARED FOR:

Rutherford County, North Carolina

Commissioners

C. A. Kennedy, Chairman
Fred Crowe
S. B. Tanner, III
Harvey Powell
Horace Yelton

Rutherford County Planning Board

Stover Dunagan, Chairman
A. Jervis Arledge
T. G. Brooks
Jim Doggett
Bobby F. England
Mrs. Charles Griffith
Joe Hamlin
Hugh D. McBrayer
John Padgett
Max G. Padgett
Joe Robbins
Robert Smith

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY:

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES
Howard N. Lee, Secretary

Division of Community Assistance
Billy Ray Hall, Director

Local Planning & Management Services Section
Lenwood Long, Chief

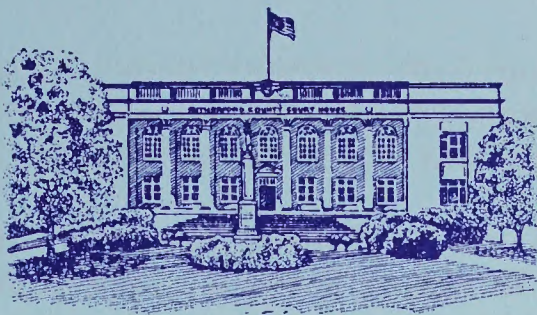
Western Field Office, Asheville, N. C.
Alan Lang, Chief Planner
Linwood M. Harton, Jr., Project Planner
Hermon Rector, Draftsman
Phyllis Hipps, Stenographer

A special thanks to Max G. Padgett and Marney Hendrick for their special help in the preparation of this report.



C. A. Kennedy, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners

C. A. KENNEDY, *Chairman*
FRED CROWE, *Vice Chairman*
HARVEY POWELL, *Member*
S. B. TANNER, *Member*
HORACE YELTON, *Member*



ROBERT A. JONES, *County Attorney*
MAX G. PADGETT, *Clerk to the Board*
STELLA WOMACK, *Finance Officer*
SHERIDAN POWELL, *Secretary*

Rutherford County

RUTHERFORDTON, N. C. 28139

May 19, 1977

County of Rutherford
July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978

A STATEMENT TO THE CITIZENS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY

As Chairman of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, we are concerned that citizens do not understand more about the operation of their County Government and the many services it provides.

It is the purpose of this report to inform citizens of the many services provided as well as the cost of providing those services

After all, as tax payers of the County, citizens have the right to know how their monies are being spent and whether the services provided are reasonable when compared to cost of providing them.

We urge every citizen to be informed and to be an active participant in the community.

Sincerely,

C. A. Kennedy,
Chairman

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Rutherford County Board of Commissioners is composed of five commissioners elected by the citizens to establish county policies and adopt resolutions and ordinances for the various operations of the County Government.

Regular meetings of the commissioners are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the County Courthouse. All meetings are open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings in order to view first hand their County Government in operation.

Each Commissioner receives \$1,800 per year for serving on the Board.



Board of Commissioners - Left to Right: Harvey Powell, C. A. Kennedy-Chairman, Fred Crowe-Vice Chairman. Back row: Horace Yelton, Max G. Padgett-Administrative Assistant, Bobo Tanner

COUNTY ATTORNEY

The County Attorney is appointed by the Board of Commissioners. He attends all Board meetings to advise the Board regarding all legalities. Mr. Robert Jones is the County Attorney.

The County Attorney receives an annual salary of \$4,500 with a contingency fund of \$5,000 for additional legal expenses that may be incurred, including collection of delinquent taxes.

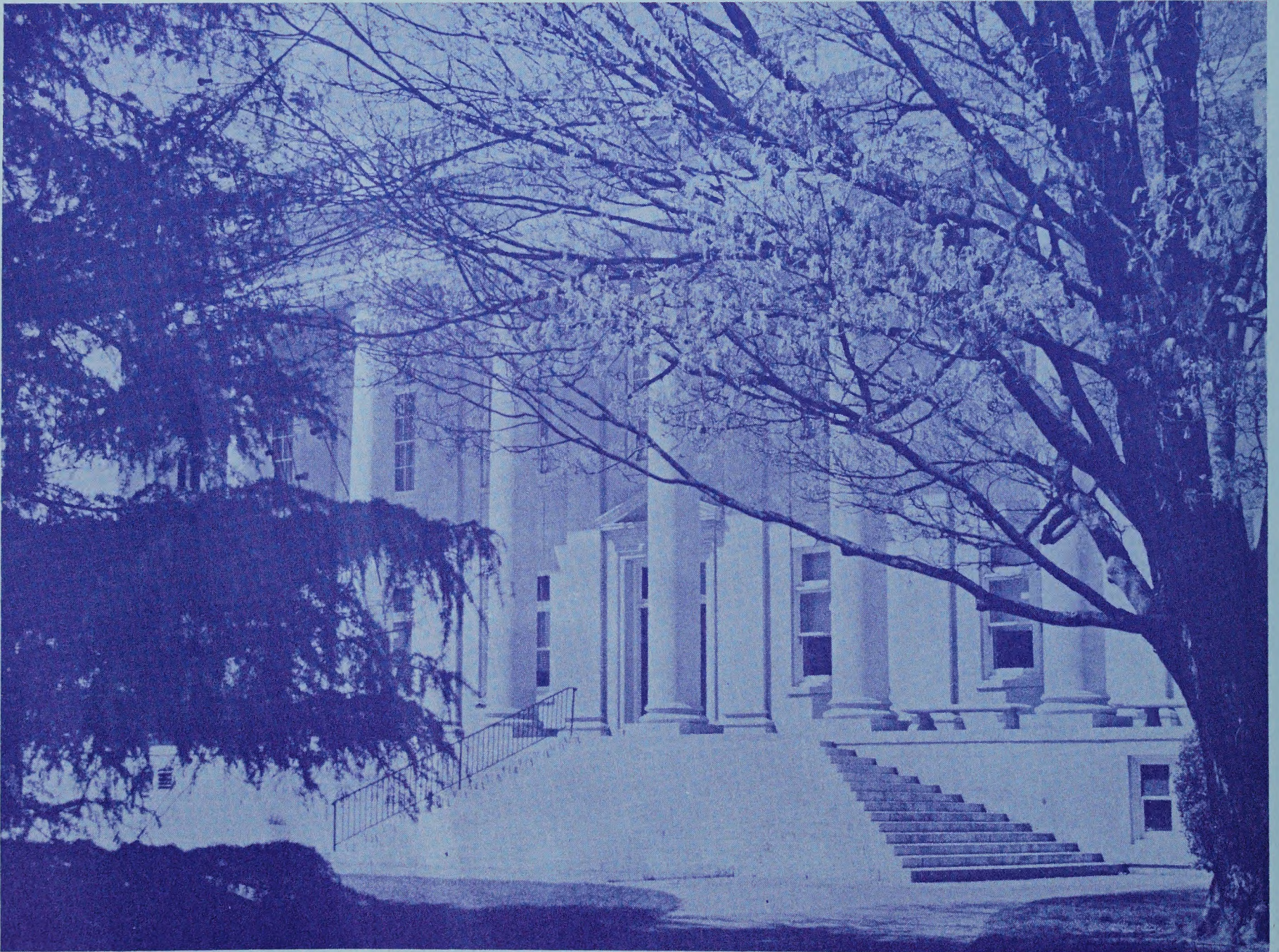


Robert Jones, County Attorney

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Department consists of the Auditor, Tax Supervisor, Tax Collector and Register of Deeds.

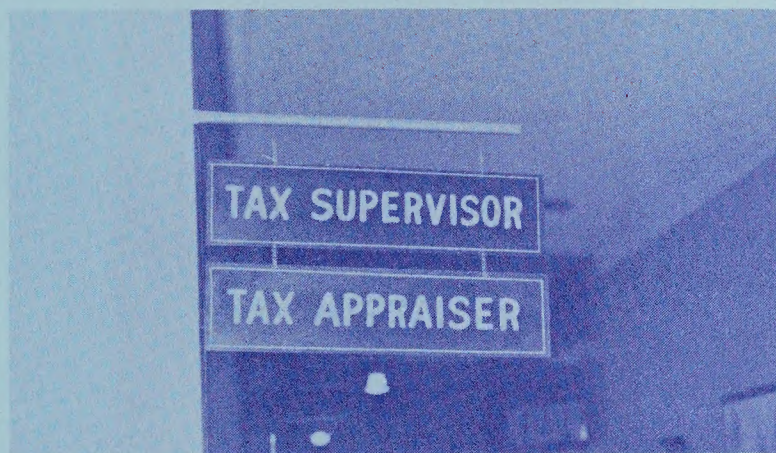
This Department is responsible for coordinating all phases of County operations, for reports to state and Federal agencies regarding County operations, i.e. the disposition of State and Federal funds, and for all receipts and expenditures of county funds.



TAX SUPERVISOR

The Tax Supervisor's Office is located on the middle floor of the Rutherford County Courthouse in Rutherfordton and is headed by Joe P. Justice. The Office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office operates totally from County funds which amount to \$75,998 for the 1976-77 fiscal year. Six full time employees work in the Office. However, during the one month period of tax listing each year, the Office employs thirty-six tax listers.

The Tax Supervisor's Office is responsible for listing, computing and billing all personal and real taxes for the entire County, recording all real estate transfers, appraising, pricing and recording all new construction, supervising the revaluation program every eight years and conducting Board of Equalization and Review Hearings.

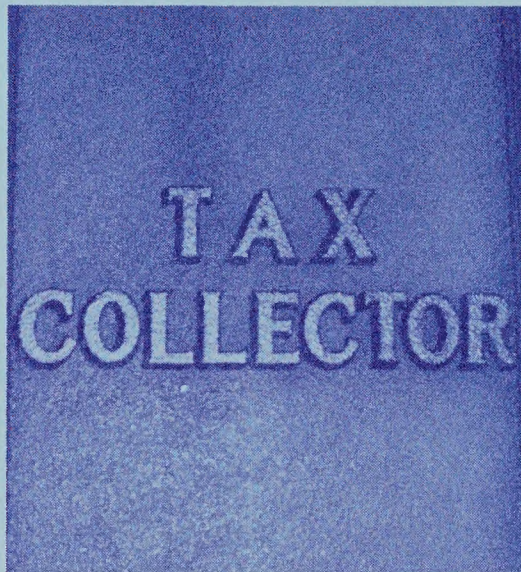


Tax Supervisor's Office - Left to Right: Rebecca Ruff, Joe Justice - Tax Supervisor, Sandra Duncan, Elizabeth Morgan

TAX COLLECTOR

The Tax Collector's Office is also located in the County Courthouse and is headed by D. K. Biggerstaff. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office operates totally from County funding which amounts to \$35,422 for the 1976-77 fiscal year. Four persons are employed in the Office.

The Tax Collector's Office is responsible for the collection of all current and delinquent taxes. This includes making daily deposits and posting receipts, sending notices to unpaid current and delinquent accounts, advertising all unpaid real estate taxes and making monthly delinquent reports.

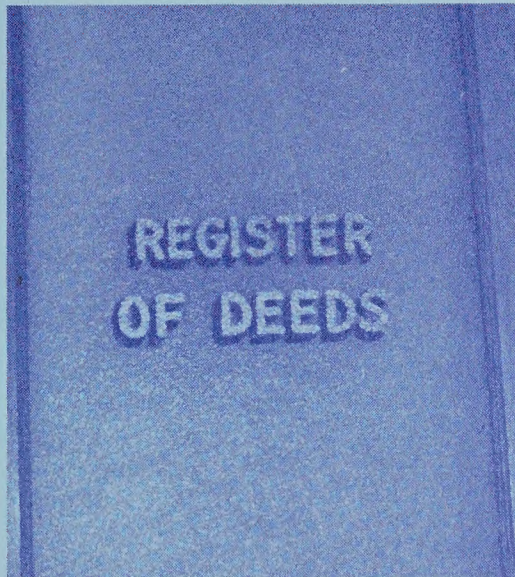


Tax Collector's Office - Left to Right: Aileen Wright, Dewitt Biggerstaff, Tax Collector, Paulette Holland, Naomi Yelton

REGISTER OF DEEDS

The Register of Deeds Office is located in the County Corrthouse and is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office employs four people and C. F. Jones is the Register of Deeds. The total budget for the 1976-77 fiscal year is \$49,687 and comes entirely from County funds.

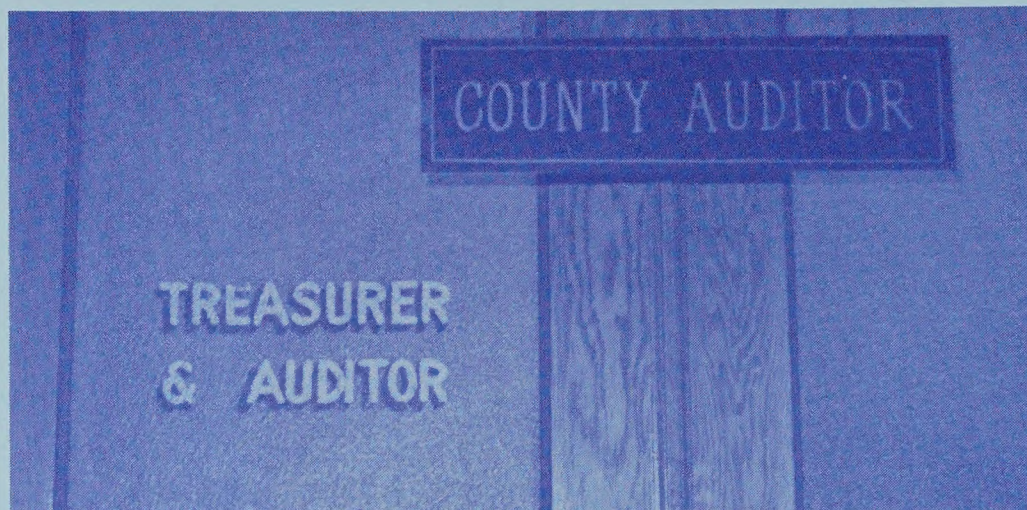
The Office of Register of Deeds is responsible for probating, recording and indexing all deeds, deeds-of-trust and other allied papers, recording all vital statistics of the County such as births, deaths and marriages and recording all corporate records of the County.



Register of Deeds Office - C. F. Jones - Register of Deeds, Francis Logan

AUDITOR

The County Auditor's Office is located in the Courthouse and is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office is headed by Stella Womack. Total budget for the 1976-77 fiscal year is \$54,054 which comes entirely from County funds. The Office employs three people plus two Federally funded people.



Seated, Stella Womack, Finance Officer
Standing Left to Right: Betty Parker, Sherry Powell, Colette Mock, Carol Hawkins, Susie Blanton

MAINTENANCE

The Maintenance Department is responsible for the maintenance of all County owned buildings and property. The Department is headed by James Crowe, employs five people and operates between 5:30 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Department operates on a budget for the 1976-77 fiscal year of \$57,714 which comes totally from County funds. This Department maintains the Courthouse, old jail building, jail, Health Department Building, Social Services Building, E.M.S. Trailer, Airport, Animal Shelter and the Farmer's Market.



James Crowe - Head of Maintenance

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICE

The Rutherford County Agriculture Extension Service is located in the County Courthouse and is open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mr. G. E. Biddix, Jr. is the County Extension Chairman. The 1976-77 County budget has allocated \$45,373 for the Extension Service and \$2,677 for the Farmer's Market. In addition, North Carolina State University supplies some financial support. The Office employs ten persons, six of whom are full-time and four of whom are part-time. In addition, there are four hundred volunteer project and educational leaders throughout the County.

The Extension Service is an extension of the educational services of North Carolina State University and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The services include all phases of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Home Economics, 4-H and Youth and Community Resource Development. In terms of agricultural services, the Office assists in the planning and developing of agricultural potential. Some of the important activities in connection with this conducted during 1976 included designing farm facilities and waste treatment for livestock and poultry producers, assisting in selecting breeding stock for livestock producers, establishing a new Regional Feeder Calf Sale, starting a Farmer's Market for Rutherford County, and testing over 7,000 acres of soil for producers. In the field of home economics the Extension Service sponsors twenty-one Extension Homemaker Clubs throughout the County. The Clubs, plus special workshops, assist homeowners in various types of crafts, training in nutrition, and offers aid in every area of good homemaking. The Extension Service also sponsors the 4-H Clubs which offer a varied plan of personal development for both rural and urban youth. 4-H reaches over 1,500 youth in Rutherford County in organized and special interest groups. During 1976 some of the outstanding activities included sponsoring various types of clubs including archery, dog, horse, electric and junior livestock, plus over 160 projects including overnight tours, hikes, camp outs, ice skating and County, area and State Fairs.





Extension Service - Left to Right: Jean Ware-Home Demonstration Agent,
Paul Grose-Assistant Chairman, Ed Biddix-Chairman

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Rutherford County Board of Elections is located in the basement of the County Courthouse and its Chairman is Joyce Wilson. The Office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office is closed from 12:00 through 1:00 p.m. each day for lunch. The Board is funded totally from the County and has been budgeted \$40,000 for the 1976-77 fiscal year. The Board employs one-full-time executive secretary and hires part-time help as needed during elections. The Board maintains all voting and registration supplies and equipment such as booths, ballot boxes, etc. The Board also keeps all registration records in a fire proof cabinet.

The Election Board is primarily responsible for providing full-time registration for citizens, keeping the registration records of voters current and holding elections. Some of the activities conducted by the Board during 1976 included defining and mapping precinct lines, instructing one hundred five precinct officials in proper registration procedures, holding mock elections for high school history classes with students participating as election officials, securing new precinct polling places where necessary, purging registration records of electors who had not voted for a period of four years, and holding four elections. Holding an election includes planning, preparing ballots and forms such as precinct return forms, tally sheets, abstracts, curbside voting affidavits, oaths for precinct officials, assistance and ballot counters, expense sheets, ballot box labels, envelopes for return forms and spoiled ballots, written instructions to registrars; advising precinct officials by telephone on election day; issuing absentee ballots and counting of absentee ballots in board office on election day; receiving returns election night and informing news media and public of unofficial counts; canvassing returns and certifying abstracts of votes cast in an election, announcing official results of the election and certifying result of election to the State Board of Elections.





Board of Elections - Left to Right: F. Lois Owens, Joyce Wilson-Chairperson.
Second Row: Bill Beason, John Jones

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

The Rutherford County Clerk of Superior Court is Edgar W. Tanner. The offices are located on the main floor of the Courthouse and are open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The County does not appropriate funds for the operation of the Office. However, office space is provided by the County for the nine employees in the Office.

The Office of the Clerk of Superior Court is responsible for all clerical and record keeping functions of the Superior and District Courts of the County, administering oaths of office and serving as the ex-officio judge probate.

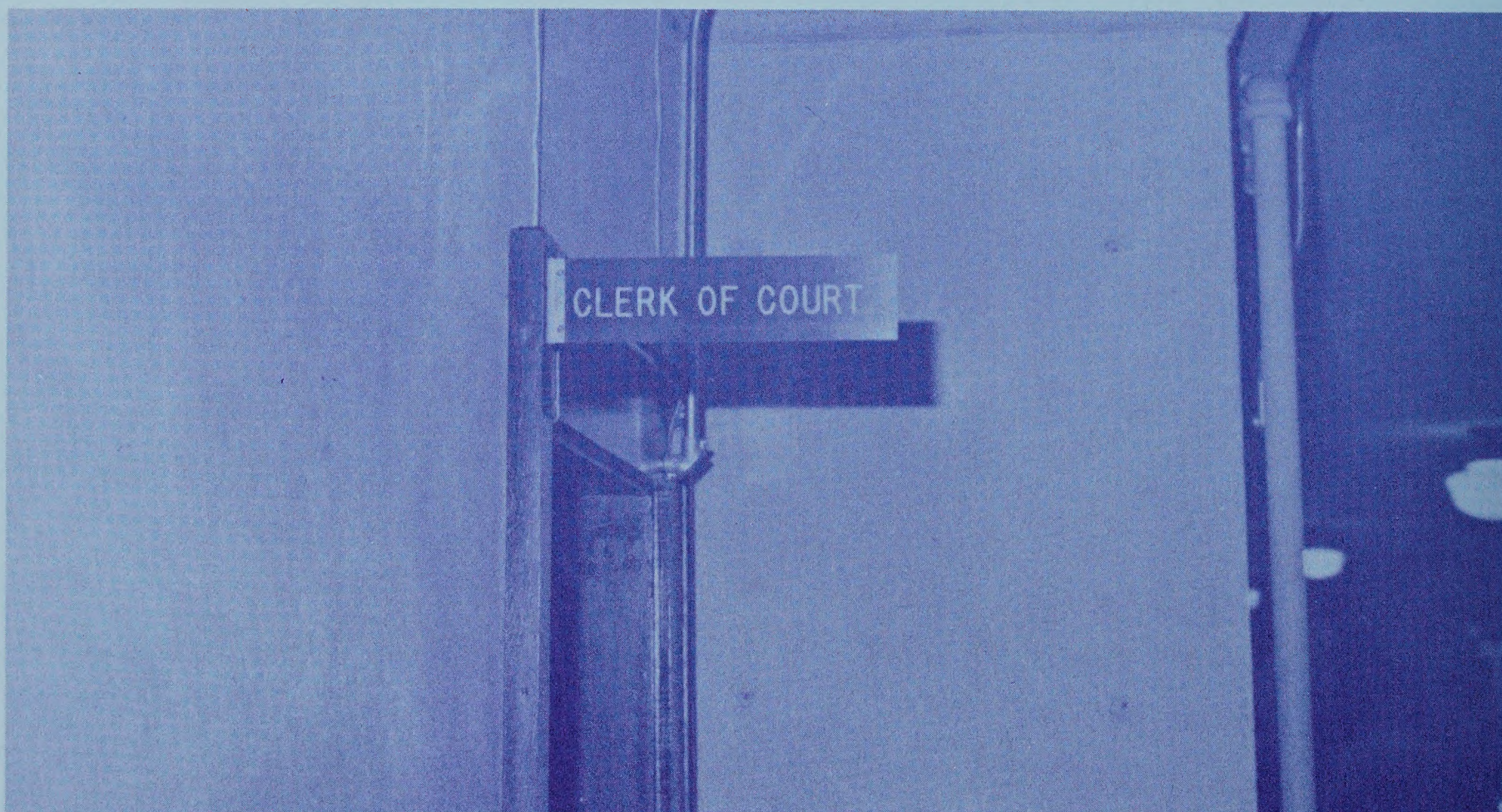
During the calendar year of 1976, the following new cases were filed through this office:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Criminal Cases. | 7,185 |
| Civil Cases | 765 |
| Magistrate Cases. | 838 |
| Estates | 238 |
| Special Proceedings | 187 |
| New Juvenile Cases. | 95 |

The following funds were turned over to the County during 1976:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Facility Fees | \$ 21,390.00 |
| Officer Fees. | 9,093.00 |
| Jail Fees | 6,241.00 |
| Fines and Forfeitures | 141,798.50 |

In addition, the Clerk's Office handled the sum of \$243,624.19 in Alimony and Support payments during 1976.



**CLERK
OF COURT**

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

The Rutherford County Veterans Service Office is located in the County Courthouse. Headed by Herbert L. Downey, the Office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The 1976-77 County budget contains \$8,637 for the operation of the Office. Some State funds are also utilized.

The Veterans Office is responsible for assisting and representing all veterans, veterans dependents, widows of veterans, children of veterans and parents of veterans in filing for benefits with the Federal Veterans Administration. During 1976, the Office conducted numerous interviews with veterans and their dependents in connection with all types of benefits ranging from direct compensation to scholarships, vocational rehabilitation, burial benefits, medical services and many other benefits to which a veteran or dependent might be entitled. The Office also maintains daily contact with other county departments such as Social Services, Health, Social Security, Selective Service, Clerk of Court and Register of Deeds. This is done to enable the Veterans Office to have accurate information for all veterans and their dependents. The Veterans Service Officer visits the homes of physically disabled veterans and dependents who are unable to come to the Office in order to assist them in filing applications for benefits.





Herbert Downey, V. A. Officer
Marie Ellis, Secretary

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Rutherford County Sheriff's Department is located at 400 North Washington Street in Rutherfordton. The Department maintains a 24-hour per day seven days per week operation. Damon H. Huskey is the County Sheriff. During the 1976-77 fiscal year, the Department has been budgeted \$340,930 in County funds. In addition, the County allocated \$112,928 for the operation of the County jail. The Department also received State funding under the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) and Federal funding under LEAA and the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). The Department employs thirty-eight persons and utilizes thirty volunteers. A total of twenty-six cars equipped with lights, sirens, and police radios, one county van and one county wagon are used by the Department.

The Department received the following reported offenses during 1976:

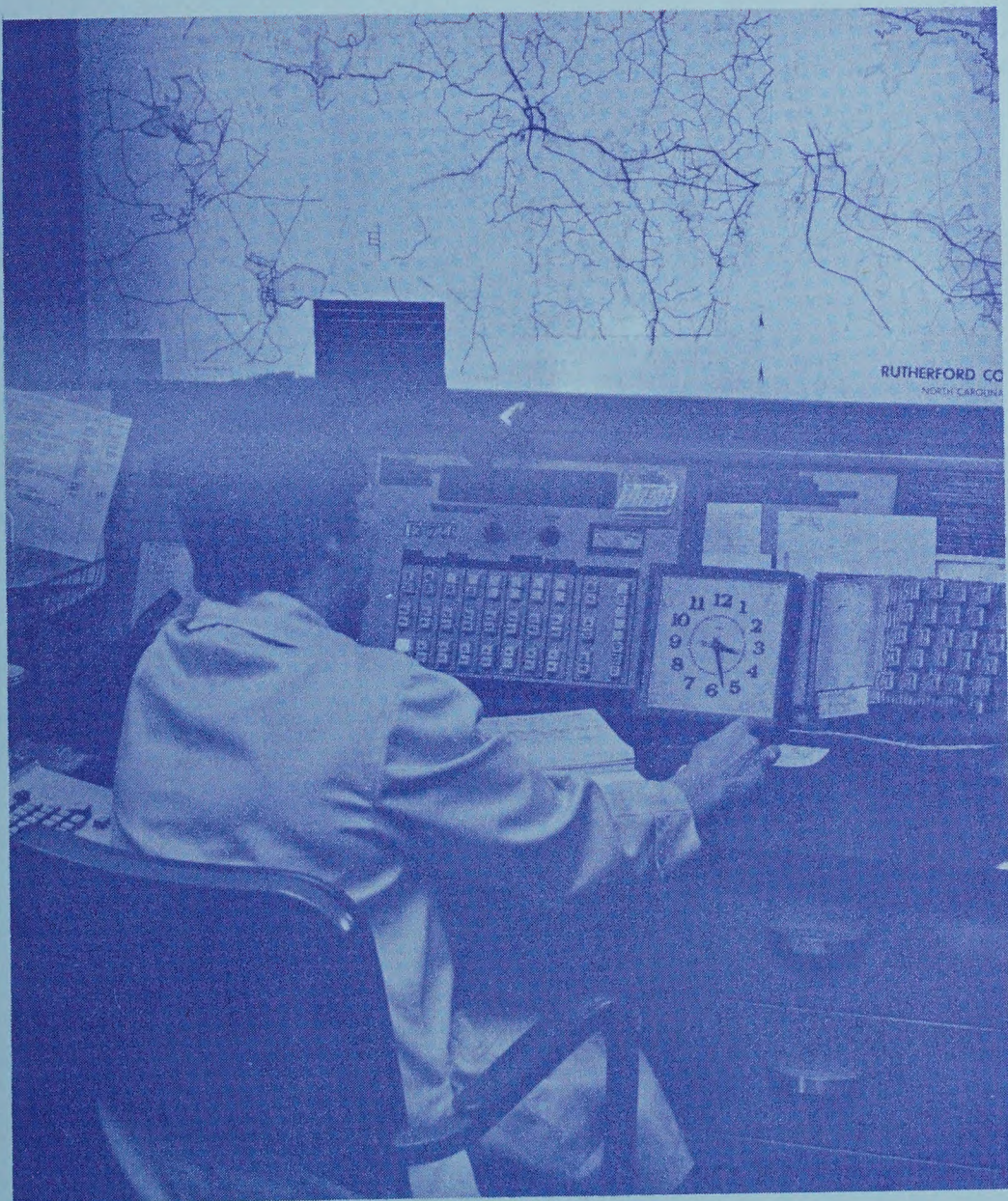
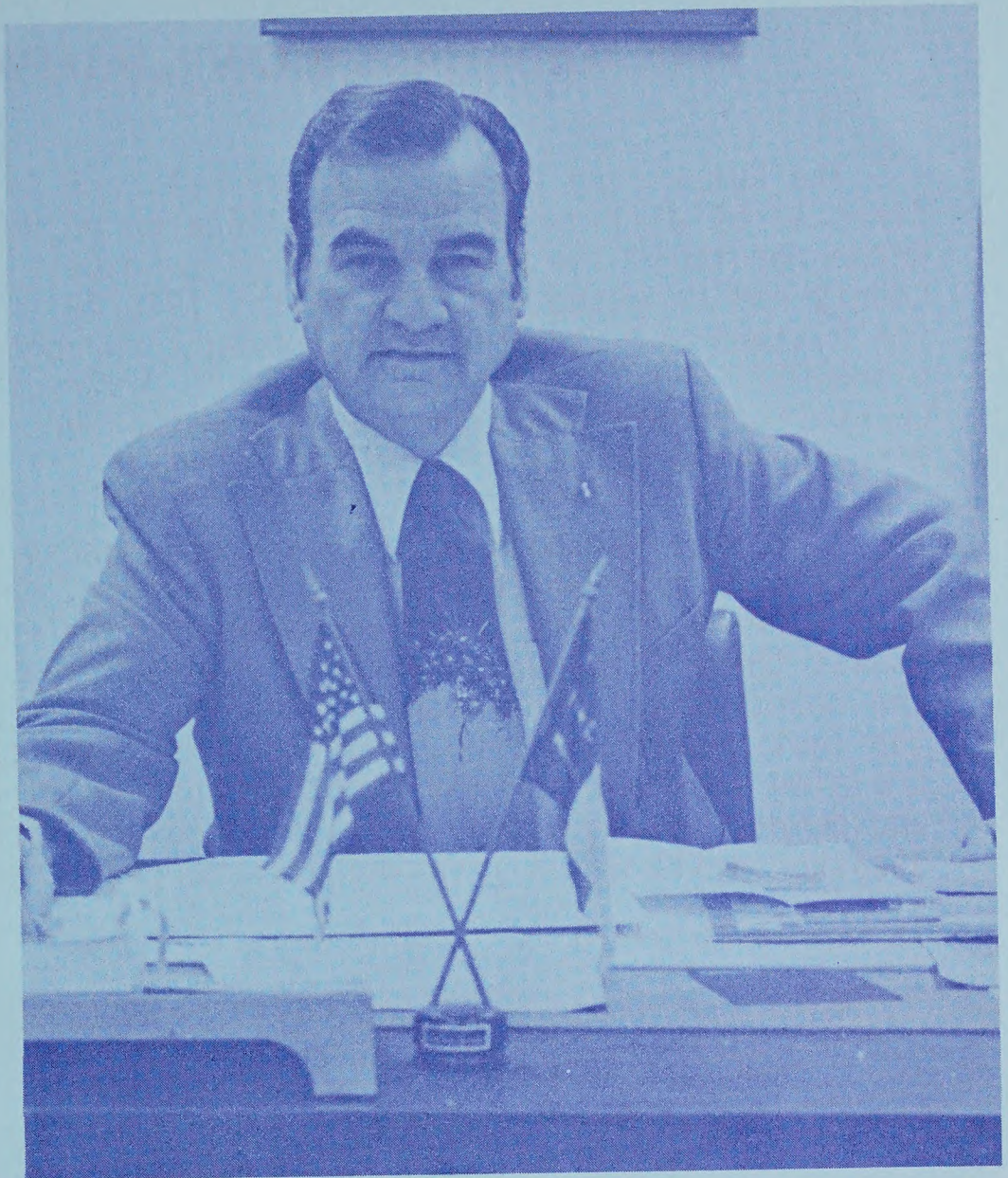
| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| County Homicides----- | 3 |
| Forcible Rapes----- | 1 |
| Robbery----- | 2 |
| Assault----- | 11 |
| Burglary----- | 204 |
| Larceny----- | 232 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft----- | <u>33</u> |
| Total Offenses Reported----- | 486 |

A total of \$169,663.78 in property was reported stolen in 1976. Of this total, \$72,403.94 was recovered during the year. The Department made 2,319 arrests of persons eighteen years of age and over and 167 juvenile arrests were made. In addition, the following papers were served by the Sheriff's Department during 1976:

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Civil Processes----- | 1,786 |
| Warrants----- | 2,300 |
| Subpoenas----- | 4,600 |



Damon Huskey, Sheriff

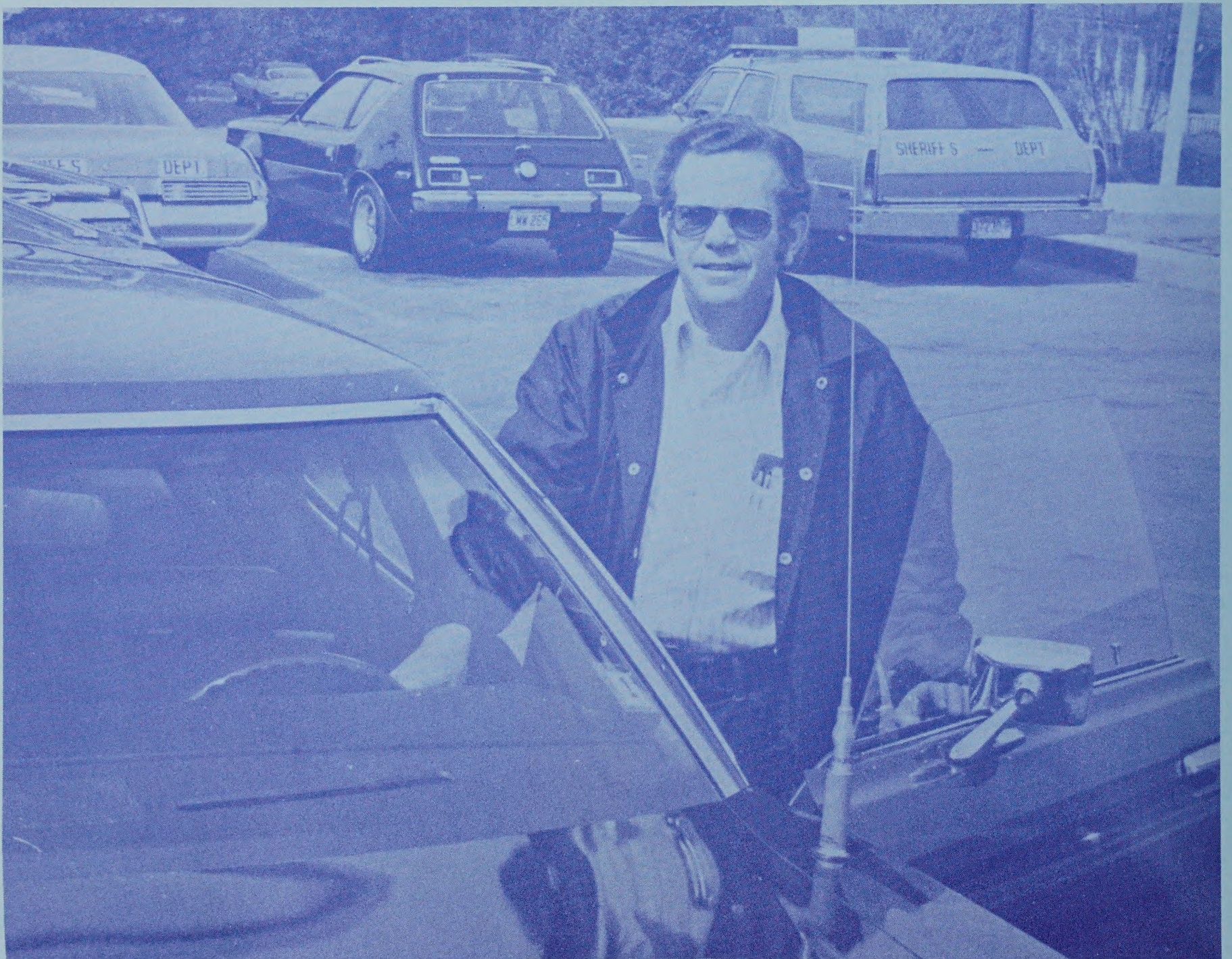


Shirley Scruggs, Dispatcher

FIRE MARSHALL & CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY

The Rutherford County Fire Marshall and Civil Preparedness Agency is directed by William Wells and is located on North Washington Street in Rutherfordton. The Agency operates in excess of 172 hours per month. The County has budgeted \$34,000 for the 1976-77 fiscal year to help maintain the sixteen volunteer fire departments throughout the County. An additional \$21,851 is collected from Fire District Taxes. Throughout the County there are approximately 560 volunteers working with the volunteer fire departments.

The Fire Marshall and Civil Preparedness Agency is responsible for county-wide fire protection and prevention, training for the sixteen volunteer fire departments, the purchase of fire equipment and to generally assist these fire departments in anyway. The Fire Marshall also serves as the County Civil Preparedness Director. This Agency began operation during the last quarter of 1976. During this time, the Agency has conducted various training sessions for the County volunteer fire departments, purchased new equipment, investigated several incendiary fires, and has conducted one disaster drill which involved all emergency personnel and equipment.



Bill Wells, Fire Marshall and
Civil Preparedness Director

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

The Rutherford County Department of Parks and Recreation is headed by Michael George Bryant and is located at 315 North Washington Street in Rutherfordton. The Office is open from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Department was first in existence in 1976-77 and \$25,000 in County funds have been budgeted for this year. The Department receives no other funding. Four employees and seven volunteers work with the Department. The Department utilizes all types of sports equipment, arts and crafts supplies and gymnastic and tumbling equipment.

The Department is responsible for the development of meaningful and beneficial recreation skills and programs for all citizens of Rutherford County. The following list is a summary of activities being conducted this year by the Department of Parks and Recreation:

Youth Drawing
Raku Handbuilding
Slimnastics
Adult Art
Tumbling
Dog Obedience
Decoupage
Youth Drama

Pottery
Macrame
Plant Care
Senior Citizens
Ceramics
Youth Slimnastics
Yoga

Neddlepoint
Copper Tooling
Crocheting
Modern Dance
Industrial Basketball
Call-A-Clause
Clause-A-School



Mike Bryant, Director

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services is headed by Robert Blankenship, Darrell Herndon and James Rabb and maintains locations in Rutherfordton, Forest City and Caroleen. The Agency maintains a 24-hour seven day a week emergency service. The 1976-77 County budget has allocated \$189,974 to the Agency. No other funding is received. A total of sixteen full-time and twelve part-time persons are employed by the Agency. Five vehicles are utilized by the Agency including two 1976 Chevrolet Modular Units and two 1973 Chevrolet Van Units.

The Agency is responsible for providing ambulance transportation for the sick and injured residents of Rutherford County.



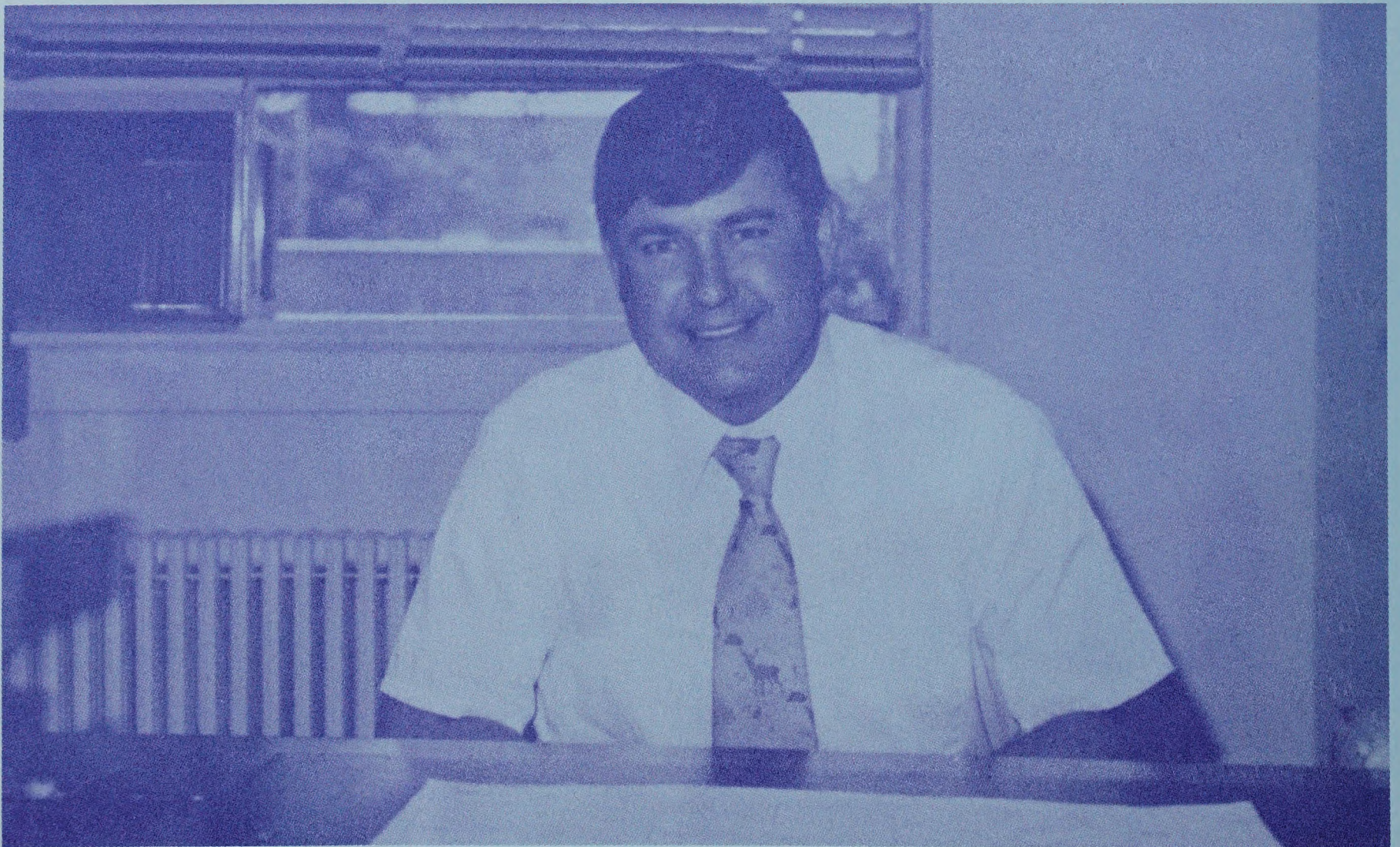
Kenneth Simms (left) and Gary White



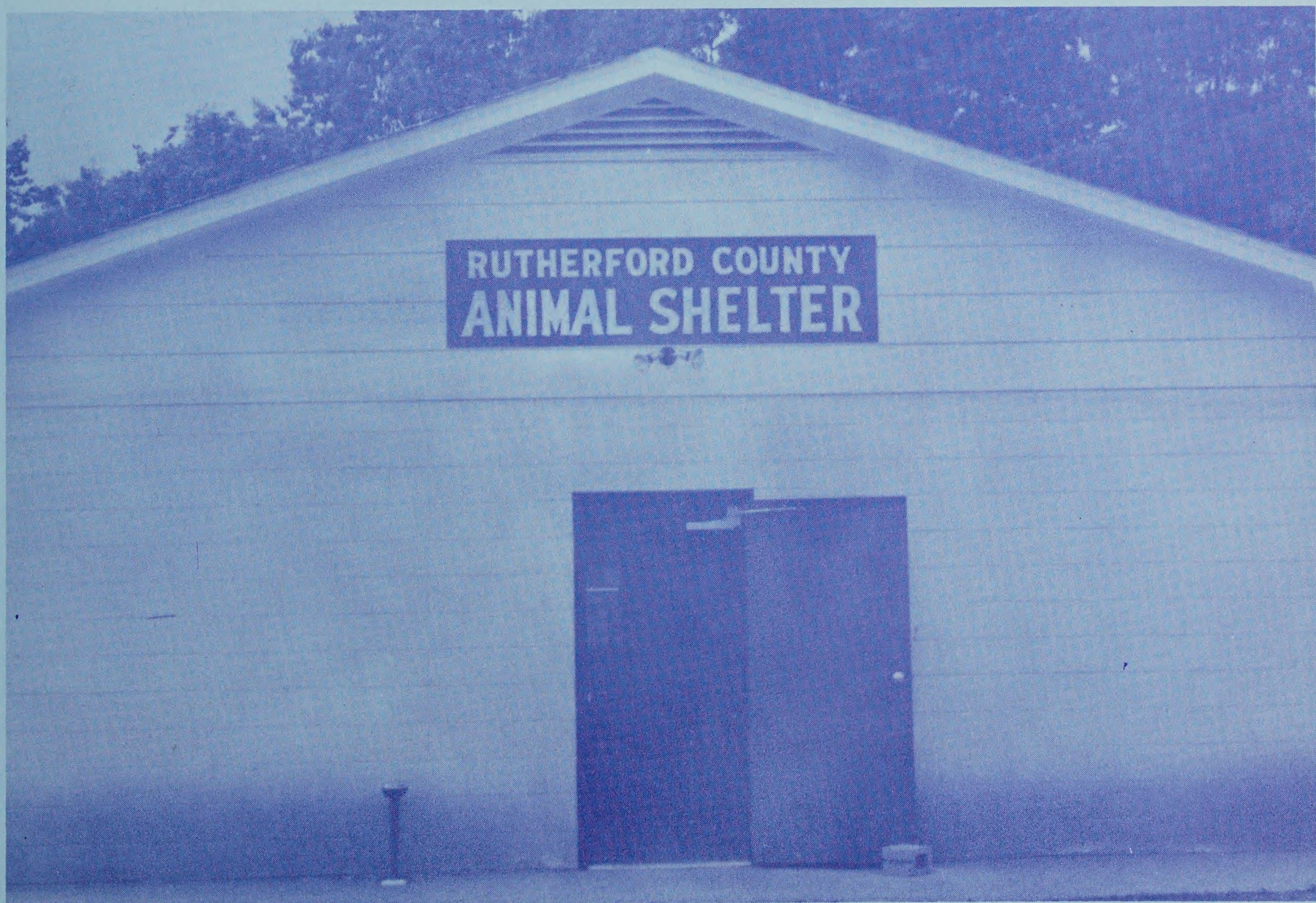
DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Rutherford-Polk-McDowell District Health Department is located at 225 West 3rd Street in Rutherfordton and is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mr. Clifford Fields is the District Health Administrator. The Department has been budgeted \$171,733 in County funds during the 1976-77 fiscal year. In addition the Department receives funding from the municipalities, vital statistics, local fees and the State and Federal Government. The Department employs a total of thirty-one persons. Various types of medical and dental equipment essential to providing diversified types of health services are utilized by the Department.

The Department was established to provide diversified types of preventive community health services. The three local County Health Departments are governed by the District Board of Health with representatives from all three individual Counties which operate under the auspices of the Division of Health Services, Department of Human Resources, State of North Carolina. The local Health Department works closely with private doctors, medical clinics, hospitals, allied health and social service agencies, and local government as a means of improving the quality of health of the community for its residents. The Department conducts health clinics throughout the year dealing with various programs including infant and child health, school health, family planning and birth control, maternal health and parental care, cancer, home health services, venereal disease, orthopedic, tuberculosis and chest x-ray clinics, dental health, eye clinic, speech therapy, general clinics such as skin and blood tests, pre-school immunization, pregnancy testing, etc. vital statistics (maintaining birth and death certificates), health education and environmental health such as inspecting all private water systems and sewage disposal systems, sanitary inspections of all restaurants, meat markets, lodging establishments, etc. The operation of an Animal Shelter built in 1975 is also included in the Health Department's County Budget.



Cliff Fields, Director



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Rutherford County Department of Social Services is located on Tryon Road in Rutherfordton. The Department is headed by Reid Jones, Jr. and is open from 8:15 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. A total of fifty people are employed in the Department. The total Department budget for 1976-77 fiscal year is \$2,422,774. Of this total, \$778,767 are from County funds and \$1,644,007 are from State and Federal funds.

The Department is basically responsible for providing services to families and children during times when the strength of the basic family unit fails to meet the physical and emotional needs of the individual members in keeping with minimum standards of decency and safety. In addition, the Department is responsible for administering the four basic categorical Public Assistance Programs as follows: 1) Aid to Families With Dependent Children, 2) Food Stamps, 3) Medicaid, 4) Special Assistance for Adults. During 1976 the Department provided the following services: Family Services, Protective Services to Children and Adults, Child Placement, Foster Care, Child Support, Adoptions, Services to Unmarried Parents, Day Care, Family Planning, Psychological Services, Homemaker Services, Supervision of Boarding Homes, Rest Homes and Convalescent Homes, and Issuing Employment Certificates.



Reid Jones, Jr., Director

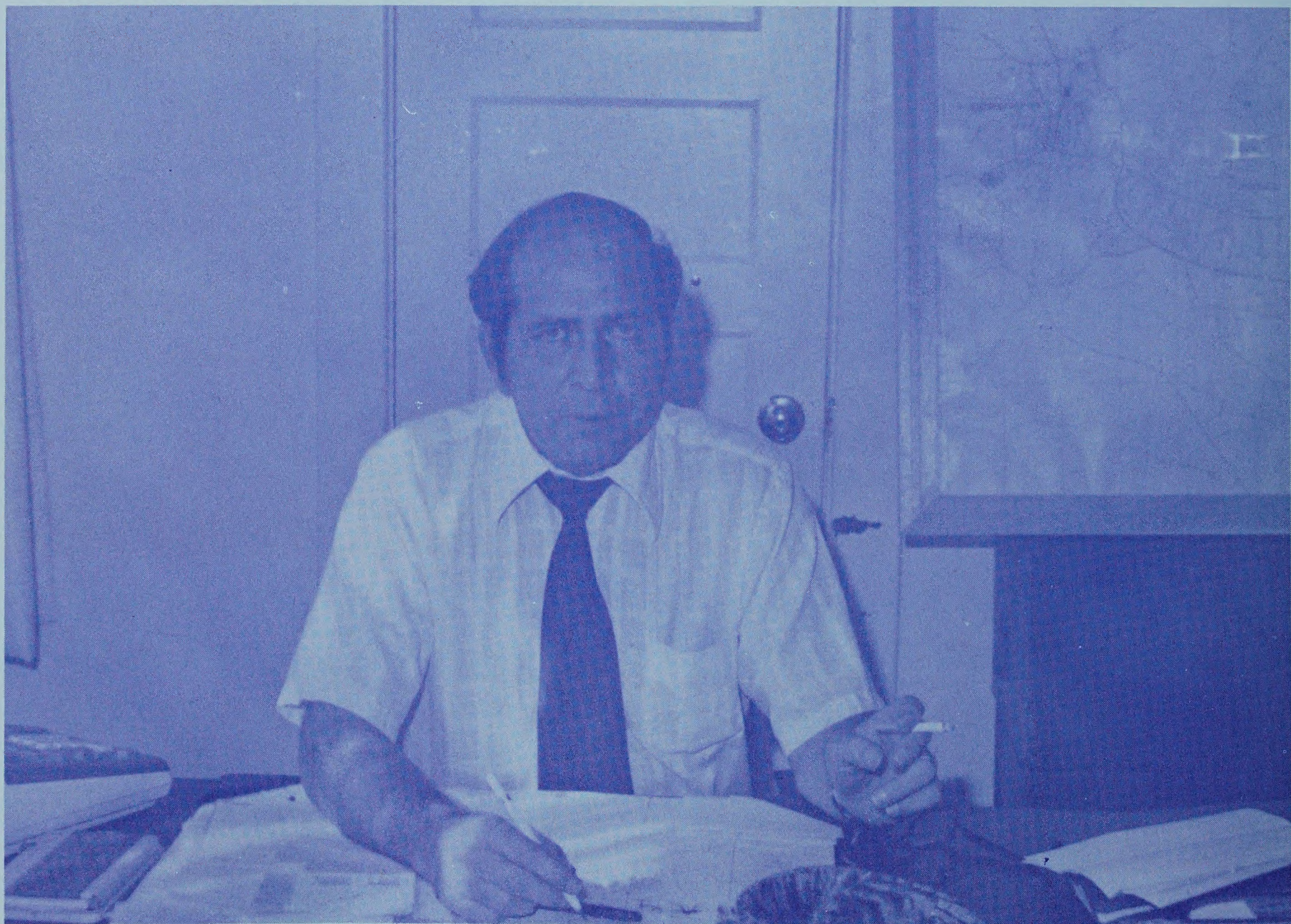


New Human Resources Building

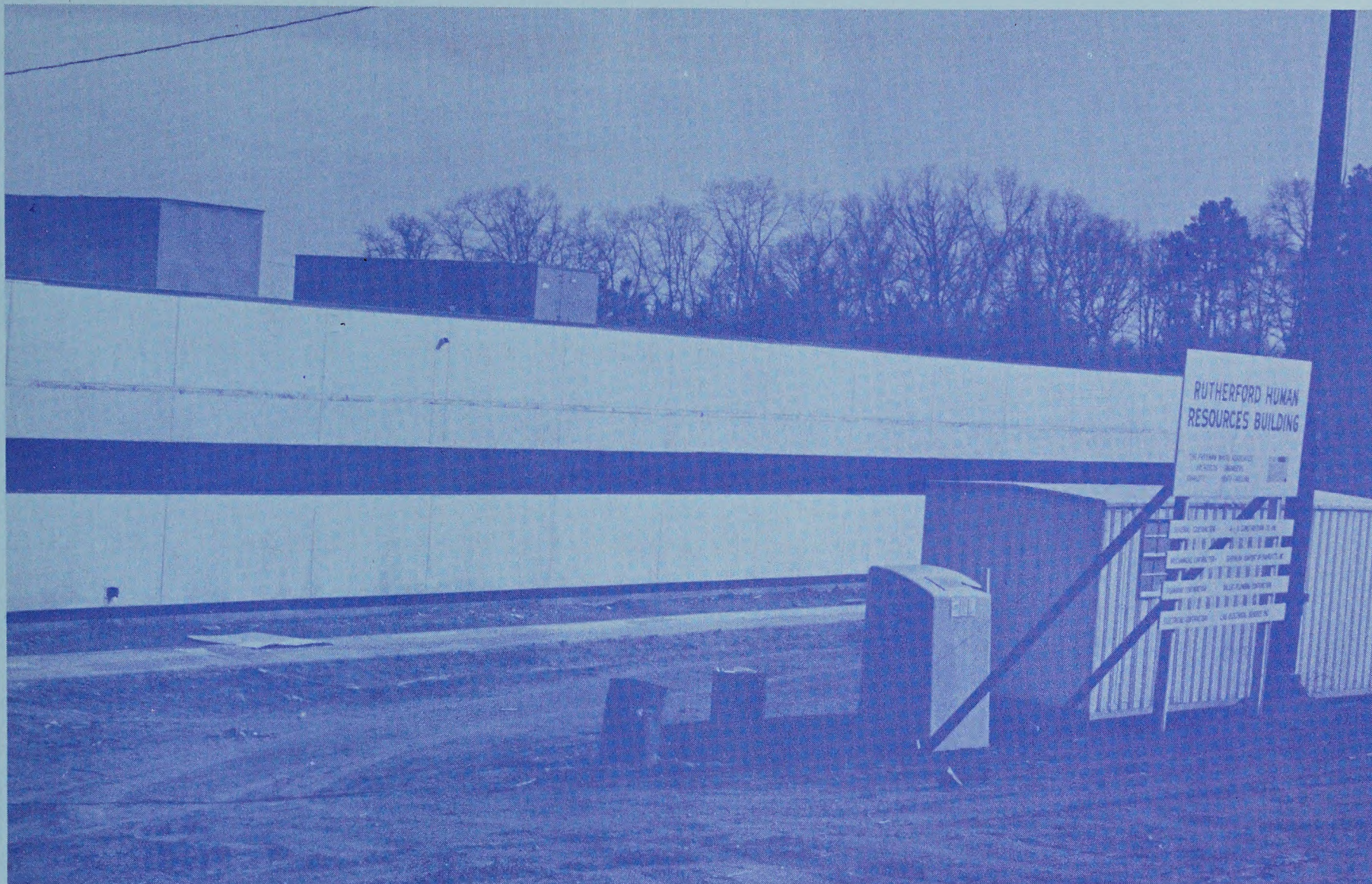
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

The Rutherford-Polk Area Mental Health Center is directed by Virgil A. Cook and is located at 306 South Ridgecrest Avenue in Rutherfordton. The offices are open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. During the 1976-77 fiscal year Rutherford County has budgeted \$78,783 toward the operation of the Center. Additional funding comes from Polk County, the State, Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC). The Health Center employs a total of fifty-one persons including forty-four full-time and seven part-time.

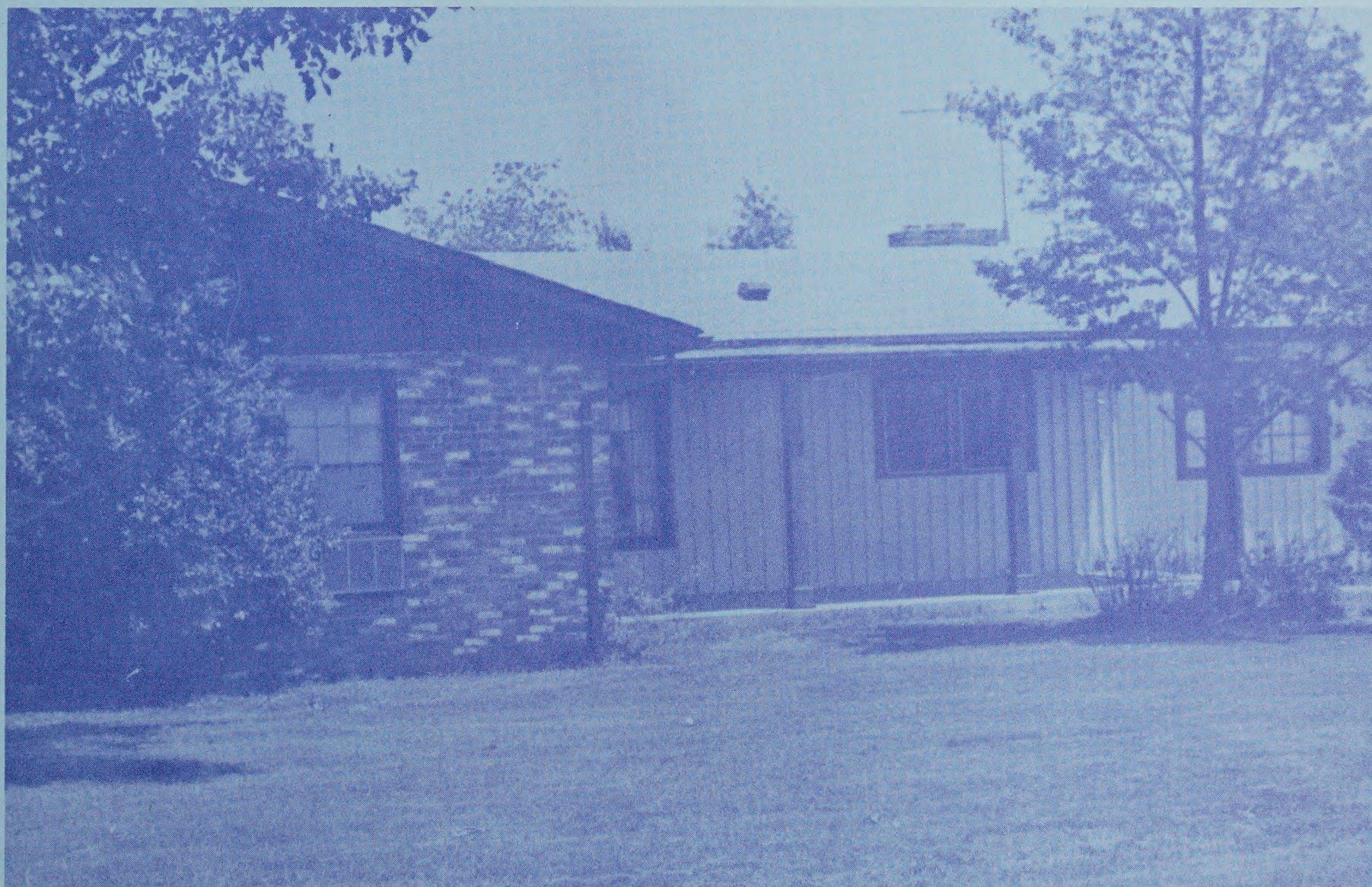
The Mental Health Center operates a Group Home for the Mentally Retarded, a Group Home for the Emotionally Disturbed, Male and Female Half-Way House for Alcoholics, Day Care for Profoundly and Severely Mentally Retarded, Day Care for the Aged and a 24-hour HELPLINE for anyone in the County. The Mental Health Center also offers out-patient services for children and their parents regarding emotional problems. These services are provided by the Center and conducted through the local school system. The Rutherford-Polk Mental Health Area Board is responsible for the operation of The Kids Place, an in-patient treatment unit for emotionally disturbed children. This facility has an in-patient capacity of nine residents and fifteen for day treatment. The Board is also responsible for coordination of services relating to Bringing It All Back Home, a facility for young delinquent girls between the ages of ten and sixteen.



Virgil Cook, Director



New Human Resources Building will house Mental Health Center

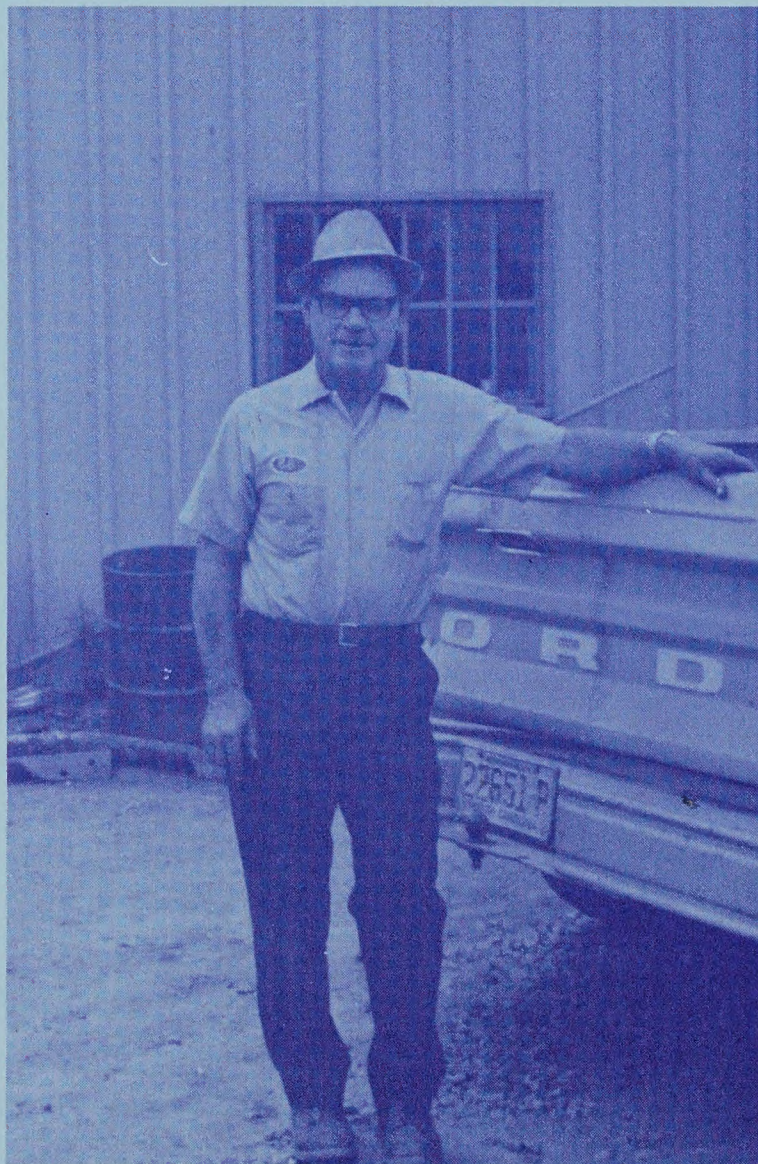


The Kids Place

SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

The Rutherford County Solid Waste Department is headed by C. C. Strickland and is located on Laurel Hill Drive in Rutherfordton with the South Landfill located in Henrietta. The Department operates between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Department has been budgeted \$126,800 in County funds for the 1976-77 fiscal year. The Department receives no other funding. Ten persons are employed in the Department. Two garbage trucks and various pieces of earth moving equipment are utilized by the Department.

The Department is responsible for the collection of solid waste from rural areas in the County and the transportation of the refuse to the County landfills. At the landfills, the refuse must be covered with dirt to meet minimum requirements for health and safety as specified by the State Health Department.



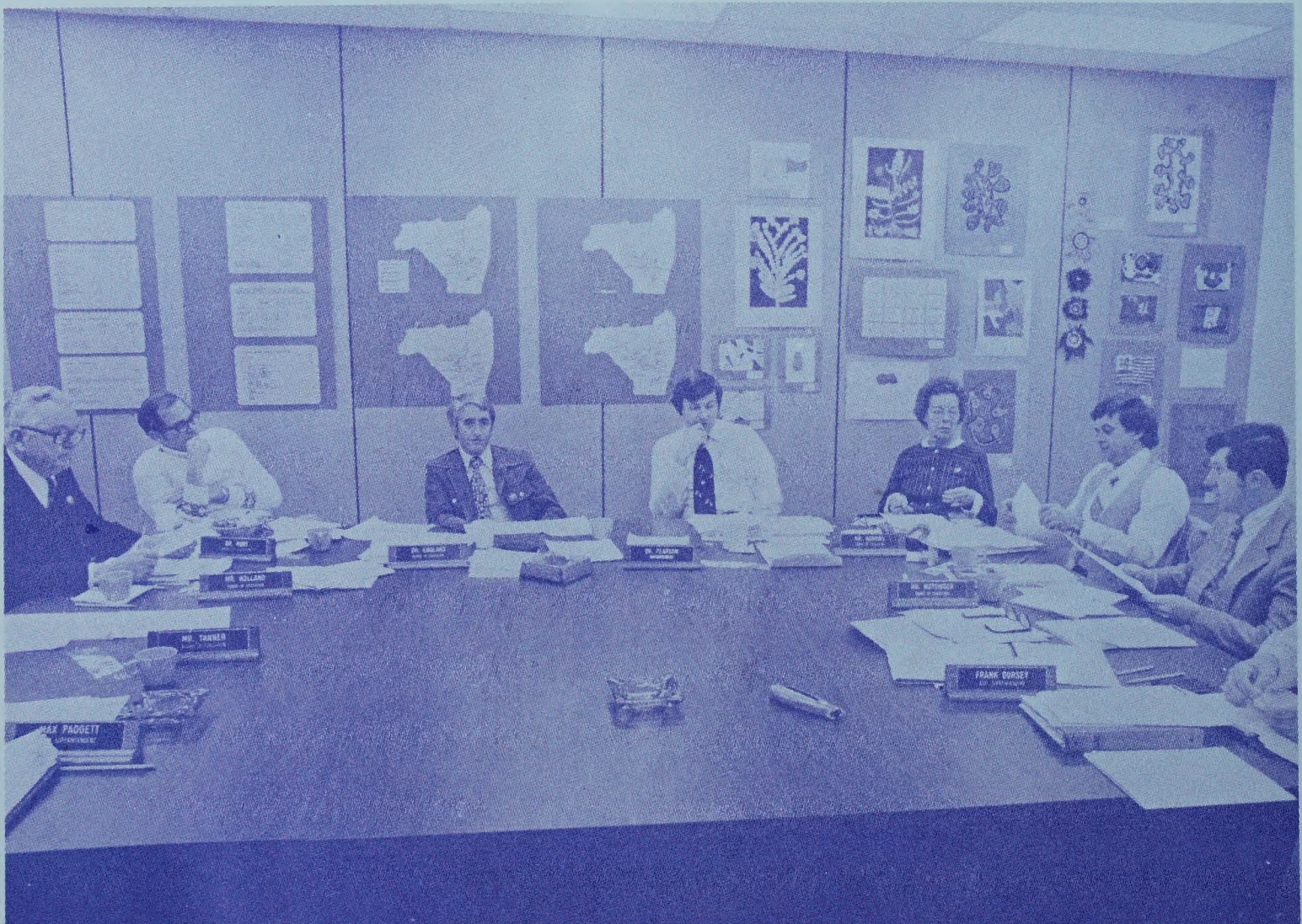
C. C. Strickland, Director



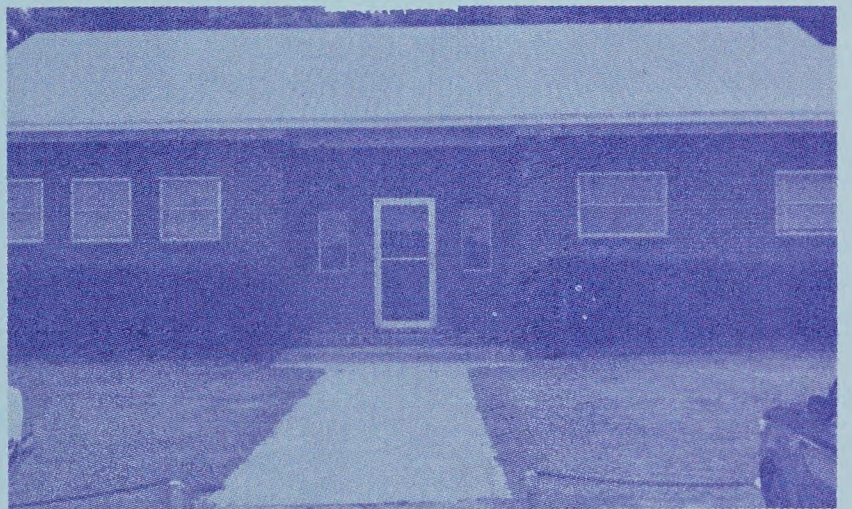
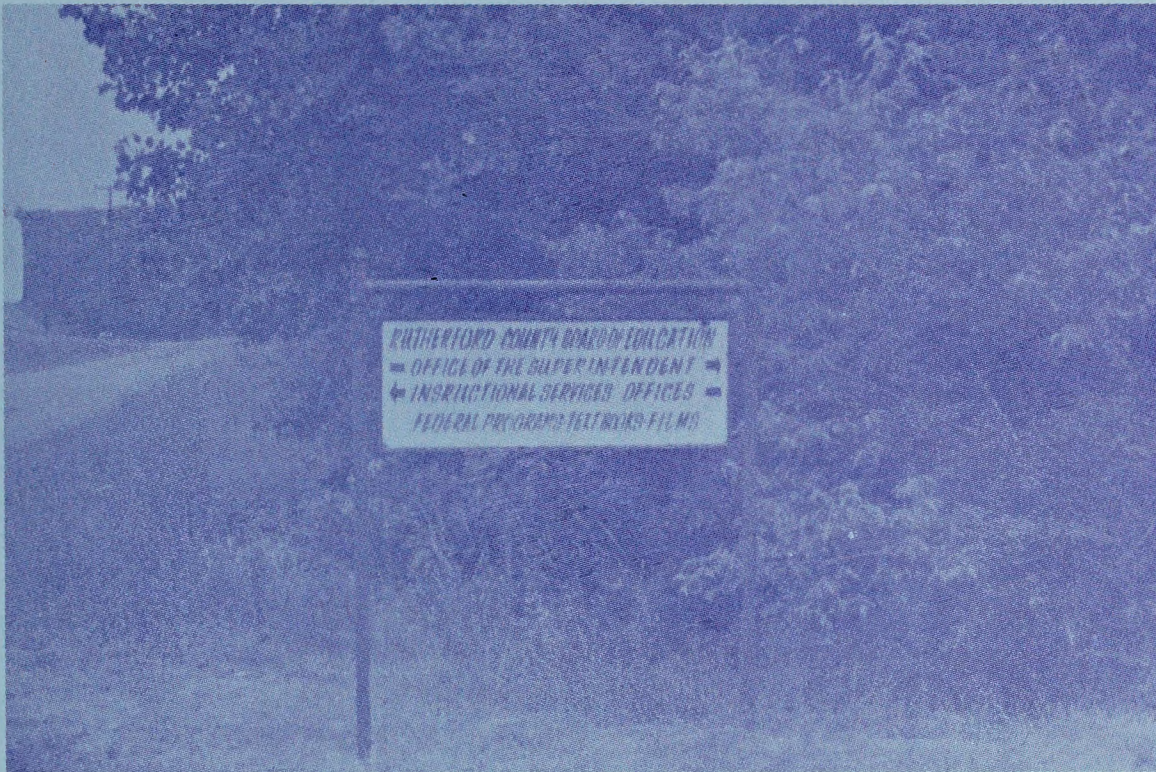
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Douglas L. Pearson is Superintendent of the Rutherford County School System. The School System's offices are located on Fairgrounds Road in Spindale and are open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The 1976-77 County budget has allocated \$2,250,000 to the School System. In addition the System also receives State and Federal funds. The School System employs a total of 1,036 persons including 692 State, 139 County, 61 Federal and 144 lunchroom employees. Of this total, 550 are professional personnel and 486 are non-professional employees.

During the 1975-76 school year, the School System provided academic instruction for approximately 8,000 students in Kindergarten through the eighth grade. A comprehensive program of academic and vocational instruction and extra-curricular activities were provided for approximately 3,000 students in grades nine through twelve at the high schools. There were 541 students who graduated from the three County high schools at the end of the 1975-76 school term. The curricular offerings ranged from 65 to 74 courses at the high schools. In addition the School System provided special programs for approximately 1,312 children with special needs. Transportation during the 1975-76 school term was provided for an average of 7,387 students daily covering a total of 4,992 miles. This was accomplished with a fleet of 107 buses and a total of 891,747 miles travelled during the school year.



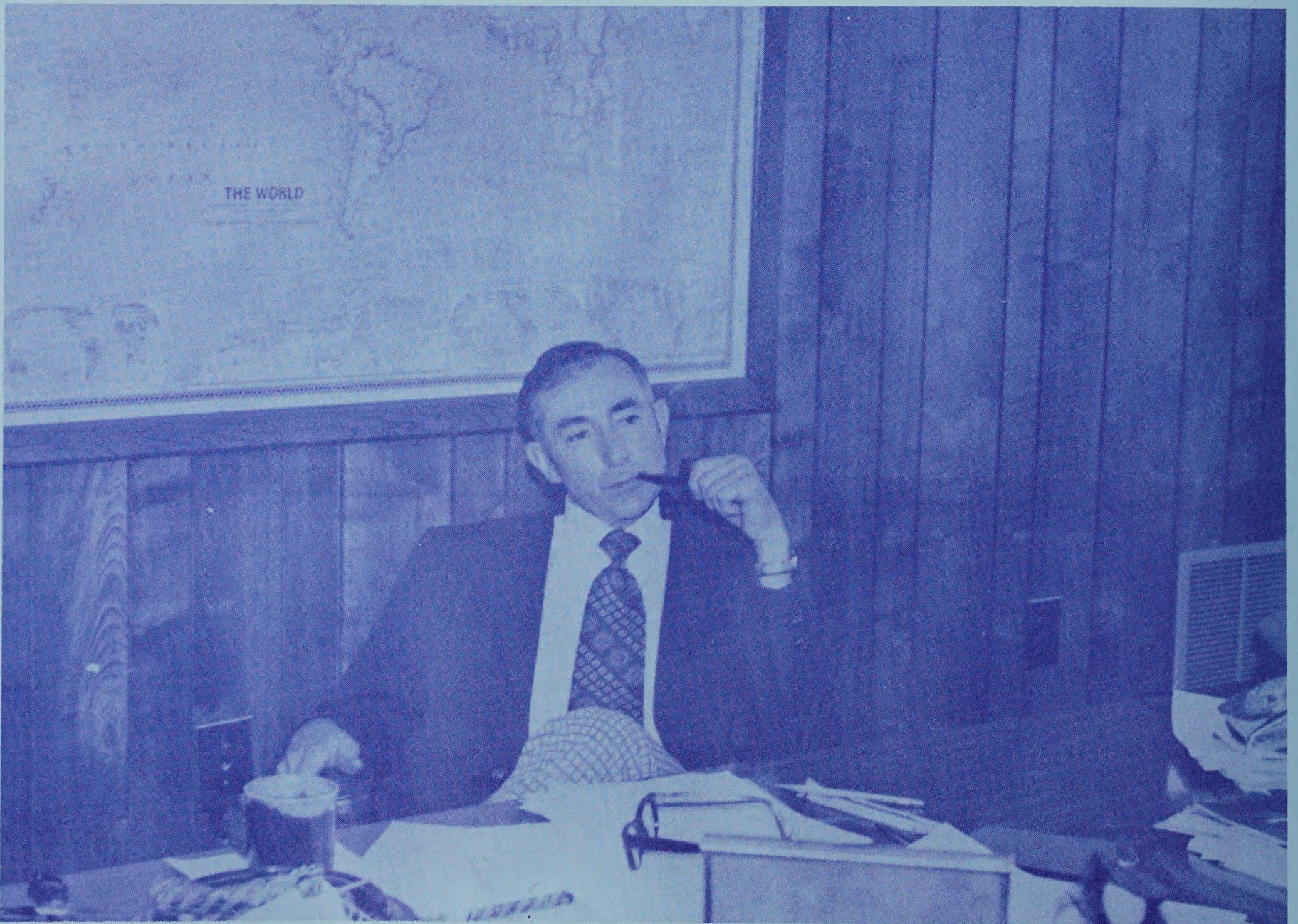
Board of Education



ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fred J. Eason is President of Isothermal Community College. The campus is located on U. S. 74 By-Pass between Spindale and Forest City and operates between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on Fridays. The College has been budgeted \$270,000 in County funds for the 1976-77 fiscal year. In addition the College receives State funds and some Federal funding for special projects, plus contributions from interested individuals. An average of 174 full-time and part-time persons are employed by the College. In addition to all types of educational equipment the College also owns wheel balancing machines and electronic testing devices which are used as part of class instructions.

The College is basically responsible for providing one and two-year educational programs for college parallel, technical and vocational students, plus continuing education programs for adults. During 1976 the College provided educational opportunities for an average of more than 1,000 students in the College Parallel and Occupational Education Programs provided for both day and evening students. In addition, an average of approximately 900 persons per month were involved in Continuing Education Courses. Scores of Fine Arts and Community involvement programs were carried on at and by the College.



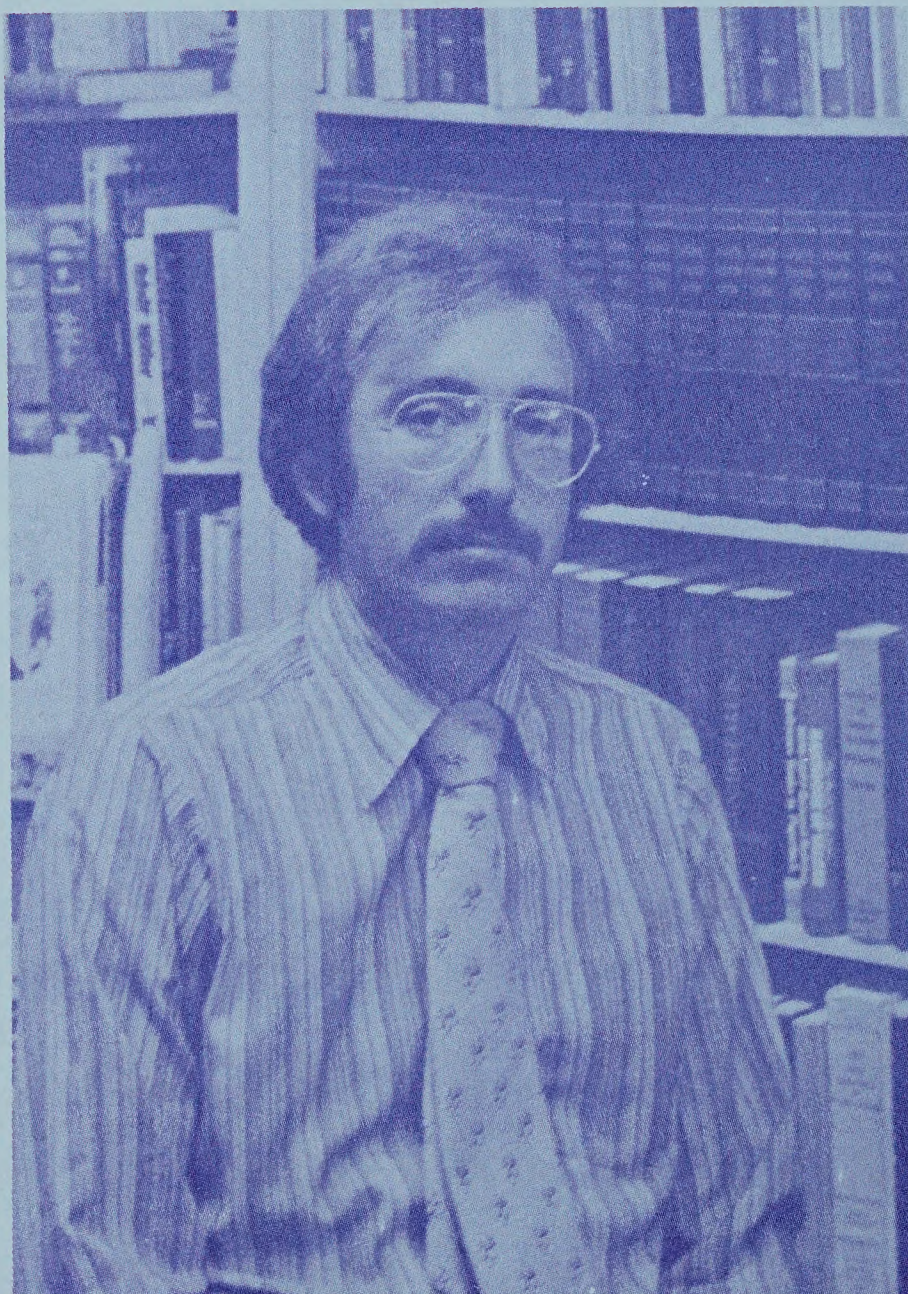
Fred J. Eason, President



COUNTY LIBRARY

The main branch of the Rutherford County Library System is located at 115 West Court Street in Rutherfordton and is open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mr. Marion McGuinn is the County Librarian. The County Library has been allocated \$30,000 in County funds for the 1976-77 fiscal year. In addition, the Library System receives funding from State and Federal sources plus some private donations. Six persons are employed in the Library System. The System operates a bookmobile unit in order to make reading material accessible to more of Rutherford County's citizens.

In addition to the usual library services to the public, the Rutherford County Library sponsors Children's Story Hours in some of the Branch Libraries. Films for kindergarten children and for senior citizens are shown by the Library. The bookmobile provides reading materials to rural patrons and supplies rethome residents with special large print books.



Marion McGuinn, County Librarian

RUTHERFORD COUNTY LIBRARY
BOOKMOBILE
HEADQUARTERS



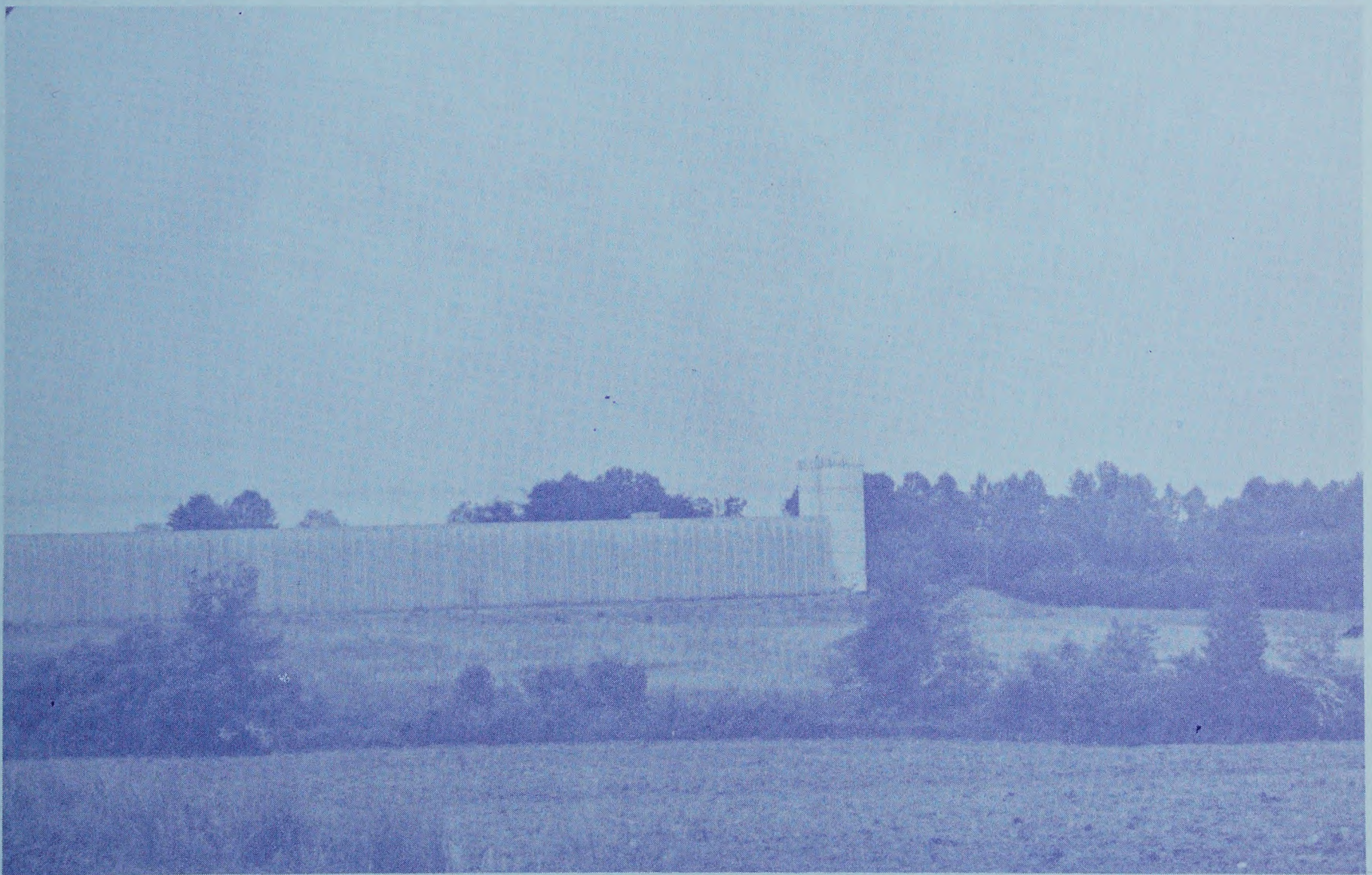
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Rutherford County Industrial Development Commission is headed by Ernest W. Ross. Located at RFD No. 2, Rutherfordton, the Commission is open as needed but usually from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The County has budgeted \$19,606 for the 1976-77 fiscal year. No other funding is received. The Commission employs two persons.

The Industrial Development Commission is basically responsible for the economic development of Rutherford County. This includes working with other governmental agencies in providing information concerning county and municipal services, tax rates, potential industrial sites, availability of utilities, etc. to all industrial firms which might be considering location in the Rutherford County area.



Ernest Ross, Director
Margaret Willis



AIRPORT AUTHORITY

The Rutherford County Airport Authority is headed by Ernest W. Ross and is located at RFD No. 2, Rutherfordton. The Airport is in operation as needed but usually is open from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day. The Airport Authority has been budgeted \$46,622 in County funds for the 1976-77 fiscal year. The Authority receives no other funding. Two persons are employed by the Authority.

The Airport Authority is responsible for the administration of all phases of the operation of the County Airport. In addition to these day-to-day responsibilities, during 1976 the Authority finished up and phased out the first airport construction project and put together the paper work necessary for the second construction phase.



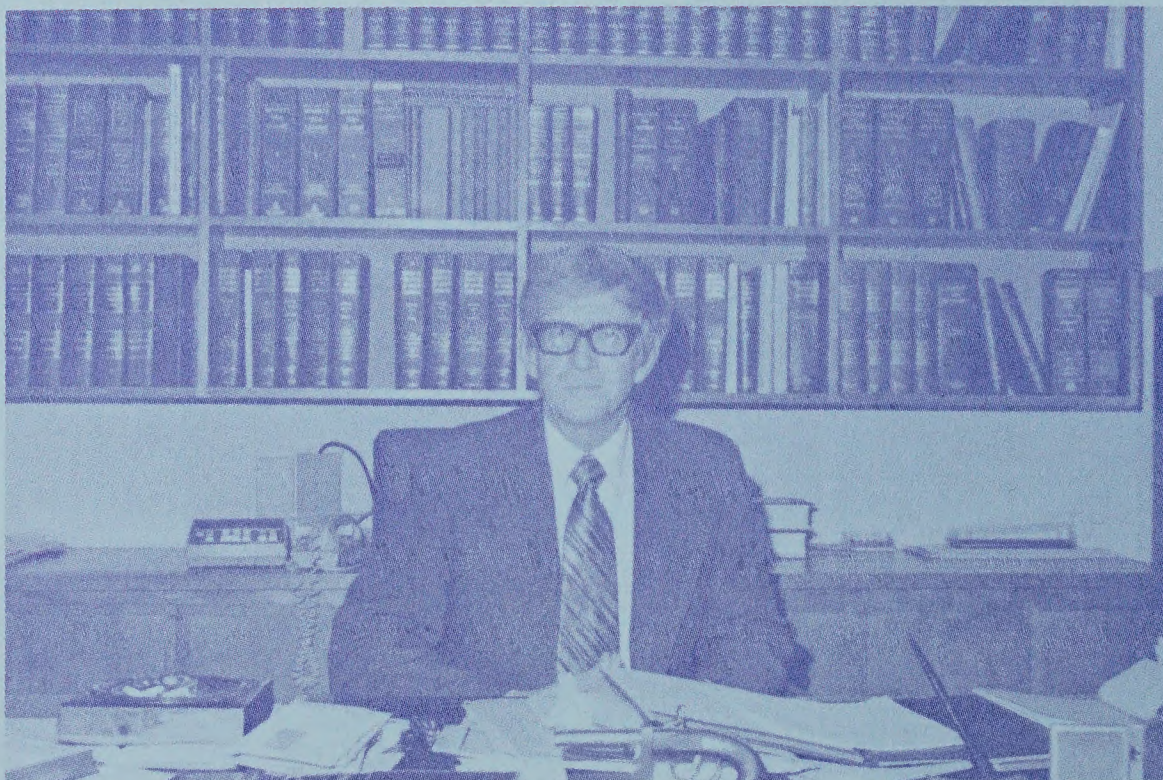
Ernest Ross, Director
Margaret Willis



PLANNING BOARD

The Rutherford County Planning Board is composed of twelve members who are appointed by the Board of Commissioners for three year staggered terms with four members appointed each year. Mr. Jervis Arledge is current Chairman of the Planning Board. The members receive no compensation for their services and the Board has no paid employees. The Board meets once a month on the second Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. at Isothermal Community College. The current fiscal year budget is \$4,800.00 which is expended primarily for contract services for planning assistance with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources.

The primary responsibility of the Planning Board is to undertake such planning studies and make recommendations pertaining to such matters as the Board of Commissioners requests. Where other county agencies are not available for such purposes, the Planning Board is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of new planning regulations such as the enforcement of subdivision regulations.



Jervis Arledge, Chairman

Planning Board

HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

The Rutherford County Human Relations Council is composed of twenty-four members who are appointed by the Board of Commissioners for four year staggered terms with six members appointed each year. Mrs. Aileen Hamrick is currently Chairperson of the Council. The members receive no compensation for their services and the Council has no paid employees. The Council meets once a month on the fourth Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Forest City. The current fiscal year budget is \$225.00 which is expended primarily for supplies and postage.

The primary responsibilities of the Council are to encourage understanding and goodwill between all races and thus promote the general welfare of the County, to act as a public forum in hearing complaints involving racial tension or other problems which the Council or the Commissioners feel should be brought to its attention, and to report to the County Commissioners and to recommend measures designed to protect the welfare of the County.



Human Relations Council: Left to Right: Aileen Hamrick, Chairperson; Jervis Arledge, Vice Chairman; Mattie Carpenter, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Russell Lynch, Secretary-Treasurer

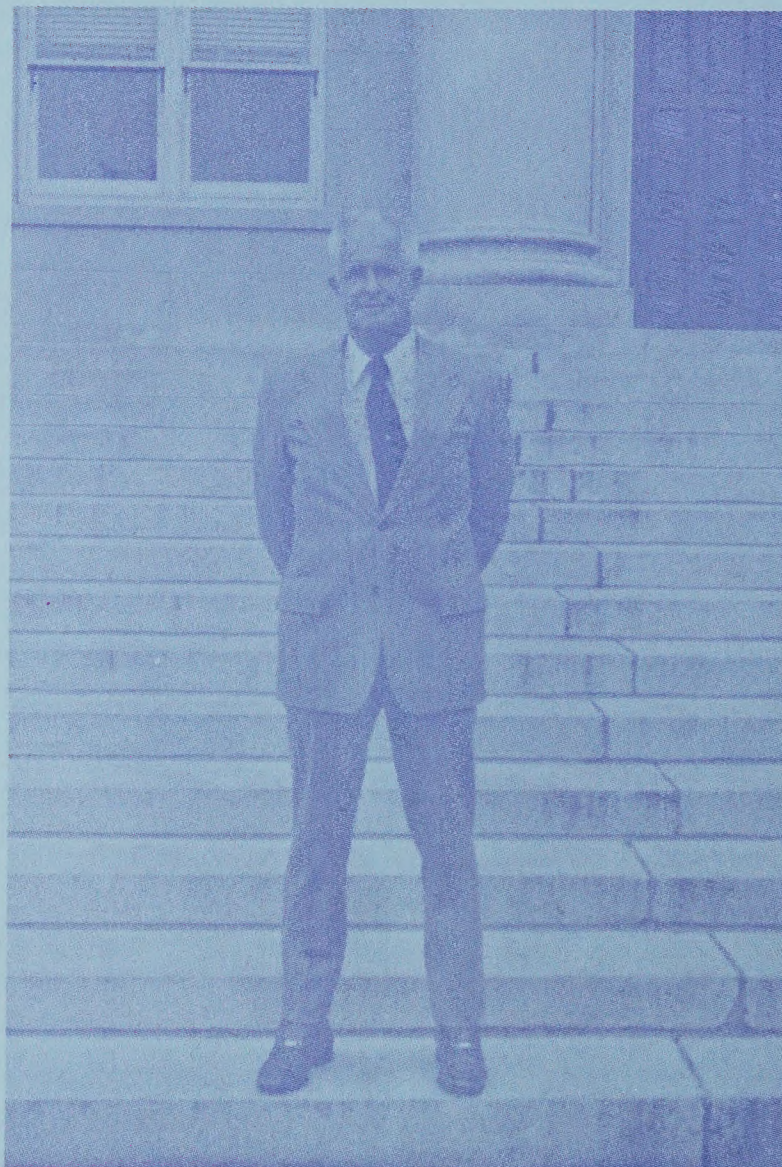
WATER SHED COMMISSION

The Rutherford County Watershed Commission is made up of three members appointed by the Rutherford County Commissioners. The members of the Commission are J. J. Hamlin, Jr., Chairman and J. B. Davis, Vice Chairman. There is, at present, a vacancy due to the resignation of one member.

The Commission was established in April of 1966 following a county-wide referendum approving it, and is responsible for directing the Second Broad River Watershed Program in cooperation with the Board of Supervisors of the Rutherford County Soil and Water Conservation District and Soil Conservation Service. The District supervisors are Dewey Hennessee, Chairman and Woodrow Fountain, Donald Morrison and Javon Calton. District Conservationist is Harry Cherry.

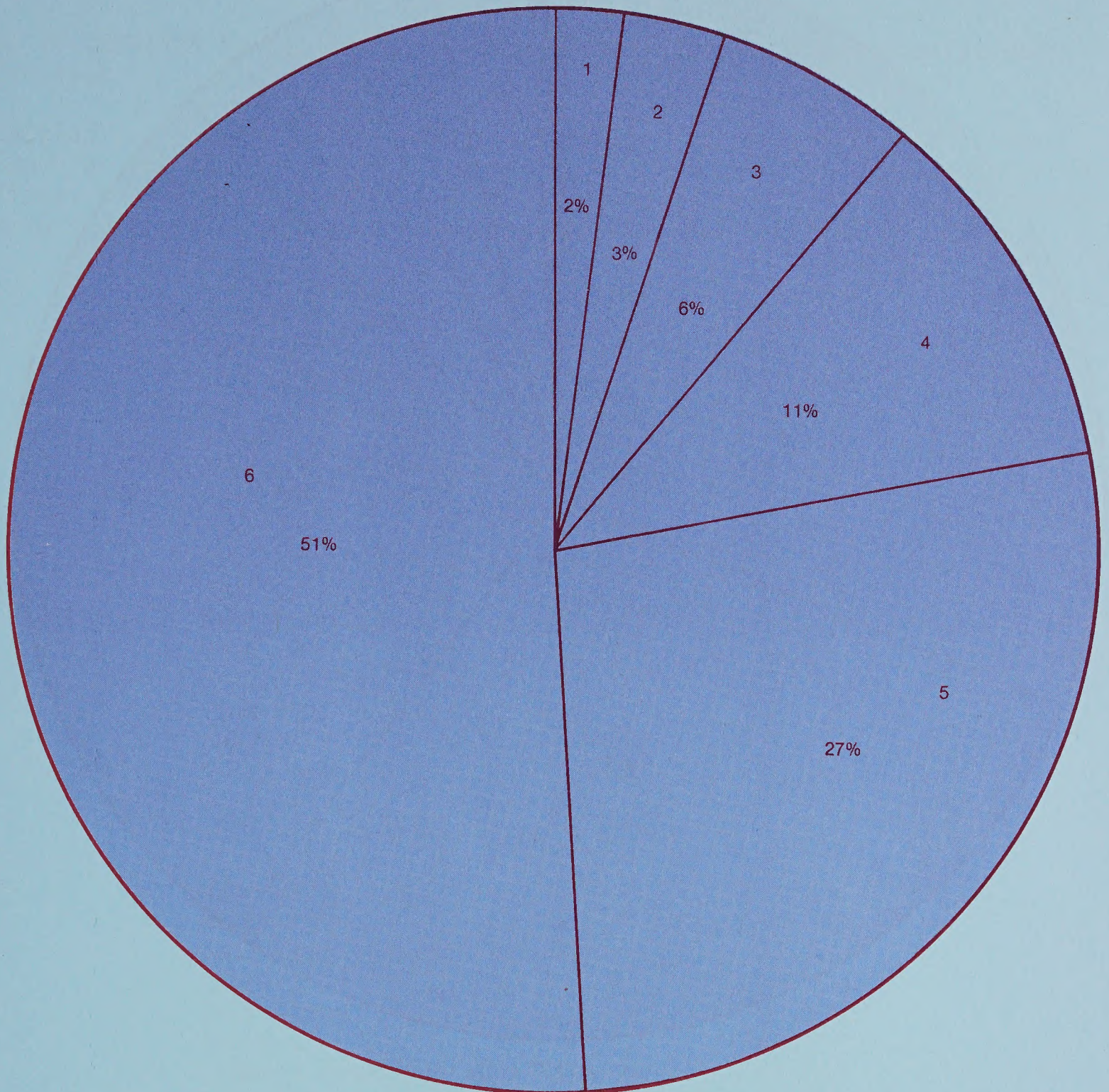
The Watershed Commission meets on the second Tuesday night of each month in the offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the Federal Building in Rutherfordton. Called meetings are frequently held. The telephone number of the S.C.S. office is 287-3347.

The objectives of the approved Work Plan are to build twelve dams in the Second Broad River Watershed area for the purpose of flood control. Two of the lakes will also be developed for recreation. Should the need arise before actual construction starts on a given dam, plans could be made for it to serve additional needs, such as a source for municipal or industrial water supplies. The cost of the dams for flood control will be met by Federal Funds under Public Law 566. The approved budget of the Watershed Commission for the current year is \$50,000.



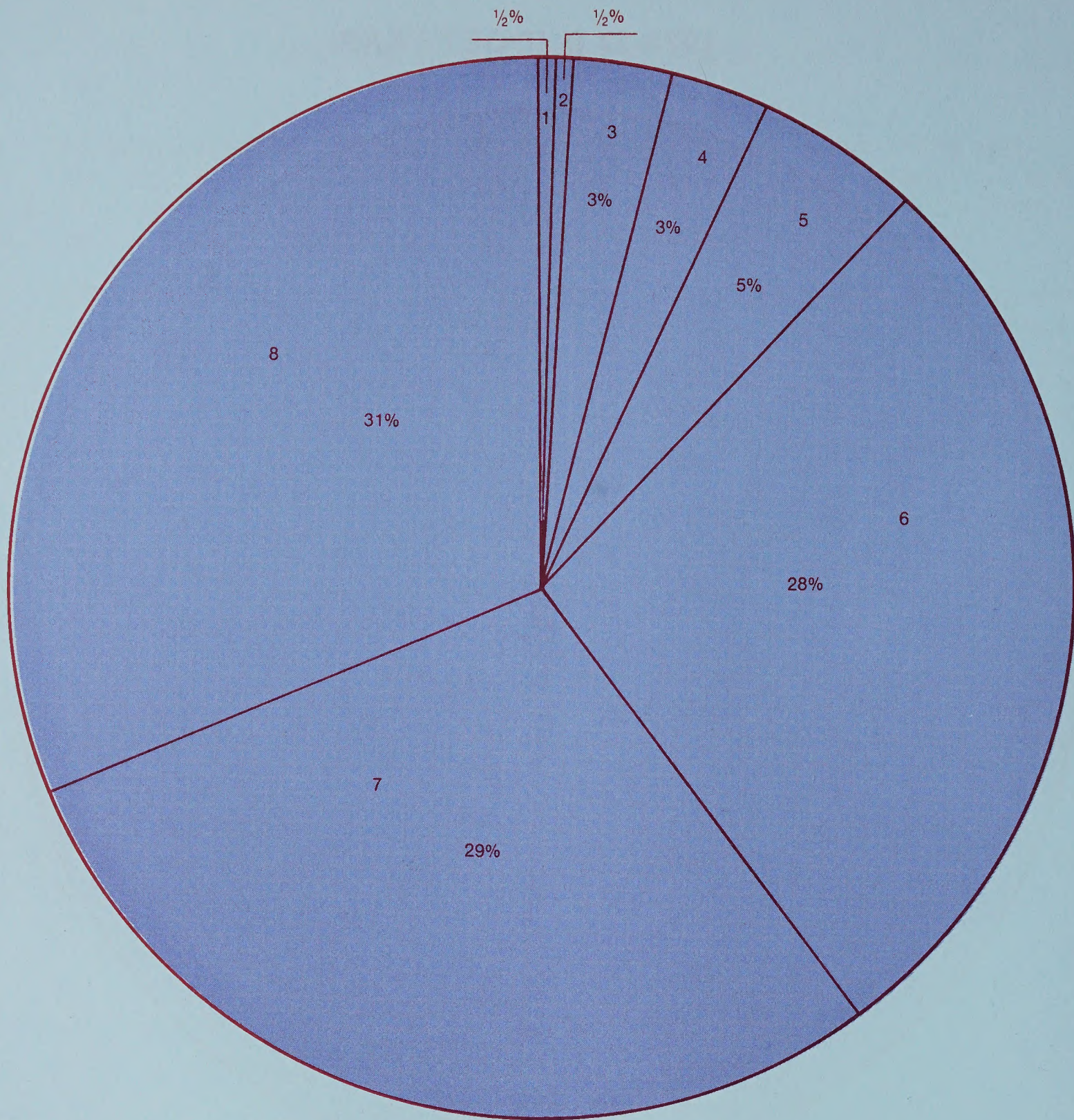
J. J. Hamlin, Jr.

1976-77 BUDGET YEAR:



REVENUES BUDGETED:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Contributions - Rev. Sharing & Courts | \$ 171,814 | 2% |
| 2. Other Revenues - EMS, Reg. of Deeds, Interest on Investments, Gas & Sales Tax, Courts, Misc., Planning | 204,965 | 3% |
| 3. Fund Balances | 463,998 | 6% |
| 4. Intergovernmental Revenues - Intangible Tax, Sales Tax, State Aid to Planning & Veterans | 870,200 | 11% |
| 5. Federal & State Funds | 2,163,206 | 27% |
| 6. Ad Valorum Taxes, Interest, Penalties & Licenses | 4,009,908 | 51% |
| | \$7,884,091 | 100% |



EXPENDITURES BUDGETED:

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Industrial Development | \$ 19,606 | 1/2% |
| 2. Revaluation | 20,000 | 1/2% |
| 3. Isothermal College | 270,000 | 3% |
| 4. Revenue Sharing | 275,330 | 3% |
| 5. Debt Service | 425,614 | 5% |
| 6. General Government | 2,200,767 | 28% |
| 7. Schools | 2,250,000 | 29% |
| 8. Social Services | 2,422,774 | 31% |
| | \$7,884,091 | 100% |

BUDGET ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Rutherford County, North Carolina:

Section I. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation of the County Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977 in accordance with the Chart of Accounts heretofore established for this County:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Commissioners | \$ 9,000 |
| Board of Elections | 40,000 |
| Auditor | 54,054 |
| Tax Supervisor | 75,998 |
| Tax Collector | 35,422 |
| Legal | 9,500 |
| Register of Deeds | 49,687 |
| Public Buildings | 57,714 |
| Sheriff | 340,930 |
| Law Enforcement Asst. Act | 226,095 |
| Jail | 112,928 |
| 201 Planning | 10,000 |
| Fire Warden | 18,800 |
| Solid Waste | 126,800 |
| Emergency Medical Services | 189,974 |
| Health | 171,733 |
| Mental Health | 78,783 |
| Coroner | 1,400 |
| Veterans Administration | 8,637 |
| Agriculture | 45,373 |
| Farmers Market | 2,677 |
| Watershed | 50,000 |
| Soil Conservation | 7,640 |
| Library | 30,000 |
| Recreation | 25,000 |
| Airport | 46,622 |
| Federal Emergency Job Program | 65,000 |
| Public Assistance | 10,000 |
| Non-Departmental | 301,000 |
| Contribution to Industrial Develop. | 19,606 |
| Contribution to Debt Service Fund | 411,614 |
| Contribution to Public Asst. Fund | 578,767 |
| Contribution to Revaluation Fund | 20,000 |
| Contribution to Isothermal Coll. | 269,525 |
| Contribution to Board of Education: | |
| School Current Expense and | |
| School Capital Outlay | <u>2,250,000</u> |
| | \$5,750,279 |

Section II. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Current year's property tax | \$3,757,908 |
| Prior years property tax | 200,000 |
| Penalties & Interest | 40,000 |
| Delinquent Penalty | 10,000 |
| License & Permits | 2,000 |
| Other Revenues | 178,565 |
| Intergovernmental Revenues | 130,600 |
| Contribution from Revenue Sharing | 148,814 |
| Fund balance appropriated | 252,523 |
| Local Option Sales Tax | 750,000 |
| Federal Emergency Job Program | 65,000 |
| Law Enforcement Assist. Adm. | 191,869 |
| Contribution from Courtroom Fees | 23,000 |
| | <u>5,750,279</u> |

Section III. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Debt Service Fund for payment of principal and interest on the outstanding debt of the County, and the expenses relating thereto for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Principal of bonds maturing | 232,300 |
| Interest on bonds | 192,814 |
| Bond Service Charge | 500 |
| | <u>425,614</u> |

Section IV. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Debt Service Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Interest Earned | 3,000 |
| Fund Balance Appropriated | 11,000 |
| Contribution from General Fund | 411,614 |
| | <u>425,614</u> |

Section V. The following amount is hereby appropriated in the Public Assistance Fund for administration of and payments to recipients of public assistance for fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Social Services | 2,422,774 |
|-----------------|-----------|

Section VI. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Public Assistance Fund for the year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Fund balance appropriated | 200,000 |
| Federal and State Aid | 1,644,007 |
| Contribution from General Fund | 578,767 |
| | <u>2,422,774</u> |

Section VII. The following amount is hereby appropriated to the Industrial Development Fund for the year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Industrial Development | 19,606 |
|------------------------|--------|

Section VIII. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Industrial Development Fund for the year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Contribution from General Fund | 19,606 |
|--------------------------------|--------|

Section IX. The following is hereby appropriated to the Isothermal Community College for the year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Isothermal Community College | 270,000 |
|------------------------------|---------|

Section X. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Isothermal Community College Fund for the year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Fund balance appropriated | 475 |
| Contribution from General Fund | 269,525 |
| | <u>270,000</u> |

Section XI. The following is hereby appropriated to the Rutherford County School Fund Current Expense and Capital Outlay for the year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Rutherford County Schools | |
| Current Expense and Capital Outlay | 2,250,000 |

Section XII. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Rutherford County School Current Expense and Capital Outlay for the year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Contribution from General Fund | 2,250,000 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|

Section XIII. The following amount is hereby appropriated to the Revaluation Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Revaluation | 20,000 |
|-------------|--------|

Section XIV. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Revaluation Fund for the year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Contribution from General Fund | 20,000 |
|--------------------------------|--------|

Section XV. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Revenue Sharing Fund for the purposes consistent with the Federal Law and Regulations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977:

Capital Outlay

Public Safety

1. Sheriff Department

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| A. Communications equipment | 1,350 |
|-----------------------------|-------|

2. Fire Departments

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| A. Capital expenditures for 17 departments (\$1,000 each) | <u>17,000</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|

18,350

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Environmental Protection | | |
| 1. Transfer to General Fund | <u>5,500</u> | 5,500 |
| Financial Administration | <u>7,166</u> | <u>7,166</u> |
| TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY | | 31,016 |

Operation and Maintenance

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Public Safety | | |
| 1. Sheriff Department - Transfer to General Fund | | |
| A. Gasoline | 44,000 | |
| B. Uniforms | 11,300 | |
| C. Radio Maintenance | 13,000 | |
| 2. County Jail | | |
| Transfer to General Fund | | |
| A. Utilities | 15,000 | |
| 3. Fire Departments | | |
| A. Operation & Maintenance 17 | | |
| departments (\$1,000 each) | 17,000 | |
| 4. Rescue Squads | | |
| A. Rutherford County Lifesaving | 12,000 | |
| B. Volunteer Lifesaving | <u>8,000</u> | |
| | | 120,300 |
| Environmental Protection | | |
| 1. Solid Waste | | |
| Transfer to General Fund | | |
| A. Utilities | 1,500 | |
| B. Gasoline | <u>20,000</u> | |
| | | 21,500 |
| Health | | |
| 1. Medical Examiners Expense | 8,000 | |
| 2. Emergency Medical Services | | |
| Transfer to General Fund | | |
| A. Uniforms | 3,000 | |
| B. Utilities | 4,646 | |
| C. Radio Maintenance | 1,500 | |
| D. Gasoline | <u>10,000</u> | |
| | | 27,146 |
| Financial Administration | | |
| 1. Non Departmental - Group Insurance | | |
| Transfer to General Fund | 19,368 | |
| 2. Independent Audit (Rev. Sharing, | | |
| General Fund and other funds) | 16,000 | |
| 3. Building Insurance, Workmens Comp. | | |
| dues and subscriptions | <u>40,000</u> | |
| | | <u>75,368</u> |
| | | 244,314 |

Section XVI. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Revenue Sharing Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976 and ending June 30, 1977.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Federal Revenue Sharing Grants | 262,330 |
| Interest on Investments | <u>13,000</u> |
| | 275,330 |

Section XVII. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of sixty-six (\$0.66) cents per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 1976 for the purpose of raising the revenue listed Current Years Property Tax in the General Fund in Section II of this Ordinance.

This rate of tax is based on an estimated total valuation of property tax for the purpose of taxation of \$612,238,596 and an estimated collection rate of 93 percent.

Section XVIII. Copies of this Budget Ordinance to the Budget Officer, and the Tax Supervisor for direction in carrying out their duties.

Adopted this the 28th day of June, 1976.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

In addition to the agencies and departments already mentioned in this report, the following organizations and programs received County funding as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| State Forestry and Fire Service | \$18,800 |
| Coroner | 1,400 |
| 201 Planning | 10,000 |
| Watershed | 50,000 |
| Soil Conservation | 7,640 |
| National Guard | 800 |
| Rescue Squad | 20,000 |

The County's outstanding debt as of July 1, 1976 was as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| School Buildings | \$1,375,000 |
| Community College | 2,120,000 |
| Airport | 130,000 |
| Courthouse and Jail | 390,000 |
| Literary Fund | <u>18,400</u> |
| Total | \$4,033,400 |

